

TALLAHASSEE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

In the News



August 20 - October 13, 2017

TALLAHASSEE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

In the News



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August 20 - October 13, 2017

TALLAHASSEE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

In the News



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- September 8 - WCTV/WTXL - TCC to remain closed through 9/12 as Hurricane Irma approaches
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- September 12 - WCTV/WTXL - Classes at TCC to resume as normal 9/18
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- September 27 - WCTV/WTXL - Zippia.com ranks TCC tops in Fla. for grad employment rates
- September 29 - WTXL - Irma's effects felt by TCC students from St. Maarten
- October 8 - WTXL - TCC hosts Southeastern Jamboree basketball event at Lifetime Sports
- October 13 - WCTV - UFF reps, Al Moran talk impasse in TCC faculty negotiations

Fired TCC professor gets her job back

BYRON DOBSON

TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT

Anne Winston, a Tallahassee Community College associate professor fired last August following a review of a failed accreditation process, can return to her job — with stipulations.

At issue was Winston's role in the college's failure to complete the process to get its Health Information Technology program accredited.

TCC President Jim Murdaugh last August sent notices of termination to Donna Francis-Clark, then chair of the health care management program, and to Winston, who was assigned to work with Francis-Clark in the process of getting accreditation.

Both women were placed on paid administrative leave and appealed their firings. Nikki Clark, a retired First District Court of Appeal judge selected by TCC to hear evidence in the case, presided over both cases.

Earlier this year, Clark ruled the college was justified in firing Francis-Clark, ousted chair of the health care management program. Francis-Clark was fired by the college shortly afterward.

Clark ruled in Winston's case that her involvement in the accreditation application was not on the same level as Francis-Clark's. She rejected TCC's claim that both women shared equal responsibilities.

TCC's Board of Trustees Monday voted to accept Judge Clark's recommendation to overturn her firing. They also agreed with Clark in denying Winston's request to have her legal expenses paid by the college.

But trustees also approved Murdaugh's recommendation that Winston serve a non-paid 10-day suspension and that she be returned to annual contract rather than her previous continuing agreement.

Winston was hired in 2010 as a full-time faculty at TCC. Her base salary for 2016-17 was \$51,963.

Murdaugh said he wasn't sure what Winston's decision will be on returning to TCC.

Winston's attorney Sidney Matthew said Tuesday he couldn't understand TCC's actions when Clark says in her report the college didn't prove its case against the professor.

"The hearing officer found all the charges were unfounded," Matthew said. "TCC is imposing punishment without proof. She shouldn't have been charged to begin with. It seems the action they have taken is completely unjustified."

Matthew said he and Winston will decide how to proceed once the final ruling is recorded.

Murdaugh said the 10-day suspension follows TCC policy on disciplinary action against faculty.

As for Judge Clark's ruling, he said he "appreciates all the great work she put into it."

"She said it didn't rise to the level of termination; she did not say the faculty member did no wrong," Murdaugh said following the trustees' decision.

Clark cited testimony from both hearings in which Francis-Clark admitted she was the designated professor responsible for coordinating accreditation efforts between the Commission on Accreditation for Health Informatics and Information Management Education, and the TCC administration.

Clark also said testimony in the hearing indicated Winston was not given specific tasks by Francis-Clark. She cited testimony from Winston saying "whatever Ms. Clark asked me to do for that application, I did."

In summary, Clark wrote, "There is no evidence that Ms. Winston failed to collaborate or cooperate with Ms. Francis-Clark in working on the accreditation process."

She also wrote, "TCC did not present sufficient evidence to show that Anne Winston caused the failure or lapse CAHIM candidacy or the termination of TCC's application."

TCC was represented in both hearings by Robert Sniffen of Sniffen & Spellman law firm. The firm has billed TCC nearly \$91,500.

Fired TCC professor gets her job back....

continued

TCC has not yet received Judge Clark's bill.

TCC has regained status as a candidate for accreditation in the Health Information Management Program. There were 32 students enrolled in the Health Information Technology program in the spring.

TCC spokesman Al Moran said some classes were being taught by substitute professors pending the outcome of Clark's recommendations.

TCC holds first freshman convocation

TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT (SPONSORED STORIES)

Hundreds of new students were welcomed as TCC Eagles this morning as Tallahassee Community College held its first freshman convocation.

The event was designed to introduce students to the College and help them get a good start on their college career.

TCC President Jim Murdaugh began by encouraging students to take advantage of the help offered by faculty members and the many other people on campus who are dedicated to student success.

Bryan Hooper, coordinator of TCC's First Year Experience program, asked students to choose to be "in college—not just at college" and to be fully invested in their college experience. He reminded them of three important connections that will help them succeed—classmates, advisers and professors.

That sentiment was echoed by several current students, who also spoke about the importance of meeting with an adviser regularly and creating an academic plan.

Forensics and theatre student Gerain Arias reminded students that their parents will no longer be checking to make sure they are doing well in school, so students have the responsibility to make sure they are keeping up in class and to ask for help when they need it.

Sophomore Samira Taylor had a similar message, advising students to spread their classes out over the day rather than scheduling them all right in a row.

"Leave time to study and do homework so you don't fall behind," said Taylor. "And don't be in a hurry to get off campus every day. Get involved in a student organization."

Susan Liss also encouraged students to say "yes" to new opportunities.

"The people you haven't met yet in the club you haven't gone to yet—they may become your new best friends."

New chairman, vice chairman of TCC board of trustees named

TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT (CAMPUS NOTES)

Trustees Jonathan Kilpatrick and Kevin Vaughn are the new chairman and vice chairman of the Tallahassee Community College District Board of Trustees respectively. Both Kilpatrick and Vaughn were appointed to the board by Gov. Rick Scott in 2014. Kilpatrick is the chief information officer for the city of Tallahassee and a major in the Florida Air National Guard's 101st Air Communication Squadron at Tyndall Air Force Base. He also serves as the pastor of First Baptist Church of St. Marks. Kilpatrick represents Wakulla County.

Vaughn is director and Wakulla market leader with Rogers, Gunter, Vaughn Insurance, Inc. He is president and chief executive officer of the North Florida Agents Network, Inc., vice president of the Wakulla County Economic Development Council and as a board member with CareerSource Capital Region. He is also a member of the TCC Foundation Board of Directors. Vaughn represents Leon County.

TCC hosts 2017 Leon County Schools College Fair

4-TRADERS.COM

For the fifth consecutive year, Tallahassee Community College hosted the annual Leon County Schools College Fair on August 28 in the Lifetime Sports Complex on TCC's main campus.

Representatives from 65 colleges and universities provided program and admissions information to 355 prospective students and their families.

'I always encourage students to plan for life after high school,' said Teri Gimbel, LCS College Fair coordinator and Leon County Virtual School guidance counselor. 'The College Fair allows students to meet directly from college representatives and helps them understand the importance of their grades and curriculum.'

Presenting schools included Florida State University, Florida A & M University, the University of Florida, the University of Miami, the University of Notre Dame, the University of Alabama, the University of Tennessee, Auburn University and many other outstanding institutions.

Gimbel said students seemed excited to receive good information on college opportunities.

'Some students in our community do not have the resources to visit college campuses,' Gimbel said. 'Talking to them directly at the College Fair exposes them to opportunities they may not have known were available to them.'

TCC to host site visit for Associate Degree in Nursing program

TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT (CAMPUS NOTES)

Tallahassee Community College will host a site review for continuing accreditation of its Associate Degree in Nursing program by the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing.

Members of the public are invited to meet the site visit team and share their comments about the program at a meeting scheduled for 3:30 p.m. on Sept. 21, 2017, at the Ghazvini Center for Healthcare Education, located at 1528 Surgeons Drive in Tallahassee.

Written comments are also welcome and should be submitted by Sept. 13 to Marsal Stoll, Chief Executive Officer, Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing, 3343 Peachtree Road N.E., Suite 850, Atlanta, Ga, 30326, or mstoll@acenursing.org.

For information about any of TCC's healthcare programs, visit www.tcc.fl.edu/healthcare, write to healthedu@tcc.fl.edu or call 558-4500.

TCC police looking for female suspect who tried to grab backpack

RYAN DAILEY

TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT

Tallahassee Community College police are looking for a female suspect they say attempted to grab a student's backpack in a parking lot on campus.

The college sent out a text alert about 10 a.m. Wednesday regarding the attempted strong arm robbery, announcing minutes later there was no ongoing threat.

Greg Gibson, Chief of TCCPD, said the suspect is described as a black female age 18 to 20, with red or burgundy braided hair and dark clothing. Anyone with information about the attempted robbery is asked to call 850-201-6100.

TCC professor who successfully appealed her firing resigns

BYRON DOBSON

TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT

Anne Winston, a longtime Tallahassee Community College faculty member who successfully appealed her firing, will not be returning this fall.

Winston is resigning effective Friday, her attorney Sidney Matthew, said.

Winston decided to resign "rather than return to work for an administration which has no respect for the rule of law or its own policies," Matthew said.

"She loves TCC and devoted 18 years of her life to teaching, but the handwriting is on the wall that she is not appreciated despite her demonstrated commitment."

TCC President Jim Murdaugh last August sent notices of termination to Donna Francis-Clark, then chair of the health care management program, and to Winston, who was assigned to work with Francis-Clark in the process of getting accreditation for the new program.

Murdaugh said Francis-Clark and Winston were equally to blame for the college's failure to complete the process to get its Health Information Technology program accredited.

Both women were placed on paid administrative leave and appealed their firings. Nikki Clark, a retired First District Court of Appeal judge selected by TCC, presided over both cases.

Earlier this year, Clark ruled TCC was justified in firing Francis-Clark, ousted chair of the health care management program. Francis-Clark was fired by the college shortly afterward.

In July, Clark ruled Winston's involvement in the accreditation application was not on the same level as Francis-Clark's. She rejected TCC's claim that both women shared equal responsibility.

She also said evidence did not show Winston failed to carry out her duties, nor did she demonstrate poor performance.

TCC's Board of Trustees last month accepted Clark's recommendation to overturn Winston's termination, while agreeing with Clark in denying Winston's request to have her legal fees paid by the college.

But trustees also approved Murdaugh's recommendation that Winston serve a non-paid 10-day suspension and that she be returned to annual contract rather than her previous continuing agreement.

"She prevailed in the case," Matthew said. "She won her job back, so the college should have recognized there was no basis for discipline as found by Judge Clark, but they disregarded her decision."

Matthew said reducing Winston from working on a continuing contract to an annual contract "is a sign that her contract would not be renewed."

Big Bend area schools announce extended closures

LYNN HATTER
WFSU

Update: 9/10/17: Gulf, Madison, Taylor and Wakulla County Schools have announced extended closures. FAMU, FSU and TCC will remain closed through Friday.

Original Story: Public schools, colleges and universities will be closed starting Friday through Monday, says Gov. Rick Scott. A change in Hurricane Irma's forecasted path has prompted the closures which is in effect for schools across the state. Some colleges, universities and school districts have announced longer closures.

Updated: 9/10/17:

Florida State, Florida A&M and Tallahassee Community College will be closed through Friday 9/15.

The Gulf County School District will be closed through Tuesday, 9/12.

The Leon County School District will be closed through Tuesday, 9/12.

The Madison County School District will be closed through Tuesday, 9/12.

The Taylor County School District will be closed through Tuesday, 9/12.

The Wakulla County School District will be closed through Wednesday, 9/13.

Update 9/9/17: State offices will now be closed through Tuesday.

Original Story: Scott has also directed the closure of state offices in all 67 counties to be shut down between Friday and Monday.

The state, starting with South Florida, is expected to begin feeling the effects of the Hurricane Friday.

According to the Executive Office of the Governor, "salaried, non-essential state employees can receive expedited volunteer certifications for disaster services so that they may assist in or operate shelters in response to Hurricane Irma impacts and preparation. Florida law

allows Governor Scott to grant full-time, salaried state employees up to 15 days of administrative leave for emergency volunteer efforts through the American Red Cross."

Scott has said more volunteers will be needed and registration can be done [HERE](#).

SCHOOL DISTRICTS

Meanwhile, The Florida Department of Education is coordinating with school districts, public colleges and universities to monitor the storm. School buses are being offered to assist in transportation efforts as needed.

School closures are available at www.fldoe.org/irma.

Districts are preparing in the case that their facilities are needed for shelters. Colleges are making emergency preparations on their campuses and working with students who may need assistance with relocation.

Last year Chiles High School in Leon County became a staging area for relief supplies.

Florida State University has also canceled its Saturday football game against Louisiana-Monroe. FSU had tried to move up the game to Saturday at noon in advance of the storm.

Based on the current forecast from the National Hurricane Center, storm conditions are not expected in the Tallahassee area until Sunday.

Leon County Schools, FSU, TCC to remain closed Tuesday

TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT

Superintendent Rocky Hanna has announced Leon County Schools will be closed through Tuesday.

Florida State University and Tallahassee Community College will also be closed through Tuesday. Florida A&M University and Keiser University have announced they will be closed through Monday.

TCC student doubles up on MagLab internships

TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT (SPONSORED STORIES)

The National High Magnetic Field Laboratory at Florida State University, better known as the MagLab, is noted for everything from creating the world's strongest magnet to improving research insights in fields such as biofuels, superconductors and pharmaceutical products.

For Tallahassee Community College student and MagLab intern Marc Toussaint, the facility provides an opportunity to learn and grow among the finest minds in his field.

"Being around people with such high character has served as inspiration for me to reach a level of excellence in the world of research," Toussaint said.

The scholar fits in well with the MagLab's culture—so well, in fact, that he was asked back for a second internship one year after he completed his first.

Toussaint said he has learned the importance of teamwork and preparation in every aspect of life thanks to his STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) studies.

"Luck does not exist. It is just preparation meeting opportunity."

Toussaint credited Demetrius Rice, former director of TCC's Dr. Lei Wang STEM Center, with not only enriching his experiences as a student but also encouraging him to pursue opportunities outside of the classroom. Toussaint was one of two students who launched the College's robotics outreach activities under Rice's tutelage.

"Meeting Mr. Rice allowed me to realize that there is more to success than just going to school and getting grades," Toussaint said. He has participated in community service events, gotten hands-on experience with robotics and benefitted from multiple internship opportunities.

Through his second MagLab internship, Toussaint hopes to expand his network with professionals in engineering, leave with a published paper and continue to grow into a role model.

He encouraged other students who are interested in STEM fields to be active outside of class as a means of expanding their horizons.

"Don't just go to class and aim to get good grades. Find an internship in your field, attend research conferences and always find ways to learn new skills."

Students from St. Maarten island shocked at devastation left by Irma

BYRON DOBSON

TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT

As a boy growing up in the Caribbean, Adrian Arrindell learned of the dangers posed by hurricanes.

But the Tallahassee Community College freshman was unprepared for the magnitude of destruction Hurricane Irma would visit on his island, St. Maarten, just a month after he left home.

On Wednesday, he got the news he been anxiously awaiting.

"I was trying to contact my father, but he contacted me first," Arrindell, 18, said. "They are completely fine. Everyone is fine."

Arrindell admits he was "panicking" as Hurricane Irma, packing winds of more than 180 mph, headed straight for the place he calls home.

"He only mentioned his car," Arrindell said of his father's update. "His neighbor's car slammed into his. My family literally barricaded themselves with wood and supplied themselves with a huge basin of water."

As Tallahassee residents brace for Irma's wrath, students in Tallahassee from affected Caribbean islands are keenly aware of the storm's brutal strength.

Dutch authorities say Irma caused "enormous devastation," to the Dutch side, with electricity and gas being cut off, according to Reuters. The news service said eight fatalities had been reported on the French side of the island.

Elsewhere, Hurricane Irma caused major damage throughout the Eastern Caribbean, including Barbuda, the U.S. and British Virgin Islands, destroying homes, hospitals and other buildings.

Arrindell is one of several students from St. Maarten pursuing degrees at TCC, Florida A& M or Florida State universities. He said students are busily trying to reach relatives and learn more about the damage as they see images on social media.

Offices working with international students at FSU, FAMU and TCC have been offering support and assistance in reaching parents and relatives.

Arrindell said he's been using Whats App to communicate internationally.

"I feel sad," he said in a somber tone. "I just left the island on Aug. 8. It (Irma) was very unexpected."

Arrindell said his biggest concern is the island's ability to rebound. He's also concerned about his ability to communicate with government staff there who are assisting him with his education in the States.

He's found it best to stay focused on his studies. After completing two years at TCC, he plans to enroll at FAMU, where he wants to earn a degree in biochemistry. His goal is to become a pharmacist.

"Right now, I am more focused on the school work," he said. "If I worry myself too much, I might get sidetracked."

Maleek Mantel, is completing his second year at TCC before he moves on to Florida State.

As with Arrindell, he was relieved to hear his family's home in St. Maarten had been spared.

His father had placed hurricane shutters on the house in the St. John's Estates section of the island. The family had a generator that helped power appliances and keep access to Wi-Fi.

"The Wi-Fi was the most important to keep in contact with family all over the world," Mantel said.

"The country has been rocked by the high winds and anyone near the coastline is in danger of flooding," he said, adding his family is not on the vulnerable coastline.

"The only damage to my house was some broken trees and the picket fence, but nothing too much. On the other area of the island, things are much worse. There are reports of houses losing their roofs."

Mantel said the toughest thing for students is being cut off from relatives and friends back at home at a time like this.

"The lack of communication is quite devastating," he said. "The suspense of waiting to hear from your family and friends. Right now, my primary concern is the well-being of my friends and family back home."

Hurricane Irma: LCS opens 10 schools as shelters

RYAN DAILEY

TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT

Ten public school campuses— including almost all Leon County Schools' high and middle schools — have been pressed into use as emergency shelters to house between 8,000 and 10,000 evacuees in advance of Hurricane Irma.

LCS Superintendent Rocky Hanna said school officials met with their Leon County Emergency Management and Red Cross counterparts Sunday morning to discuss the changing realities with Irma headed more directly for Tallahassee and the Big Bend.

"Our public school system is shouldering the task of providing emergency sheltering not only for residents of South Florida but now given the change in Irma's direction, residents of Leon and surrounding counties," said Hanna, who also called on administrators at Florida State University, Florida A&M and Tallahassee Community College "to join us in this effort to protect our local residents."

As recent models depicting Irma's track appear more certain that the monster hurricane will make a direct hit on Tallahassee, more and more evacuees walked through the door.

Leon High opened its doors as a shelter Sunday afternoon, after Rickards and Lincoln high schools opened as evacuation centers Saturday to help alleviate growing demand with Hurricane Irma's Big Bend arrival looming.

About 1400 people had sought safety at local shelters by mid afternoon Sunday, said Sharon Tyler, executive director of the local branch of the American Red Cross.

At Rickards, the gymnasium reached its full capacity of about 350 early Sunday afternoon, prompting Red Cross staff to open the school's cafeteria to accommodate 150 more people.

The school also has an auditorium, which can be opened for spill-over, but that space will be a sitting-room only.

Media access to the shelters' main areas where people are set up to sleep is restricted per Red Cross policy, but shelter coordinators were able to give updates on how their sites are doing.

Former U.S. Rep. Gwen Graham, shelter supervisor at Rickards, said people poured in after it opened Saturday afternoon. Rickards has shower facilities, Graham said, but comfort items are in short supply.

"I want to encourage everybody, we need donations here. We need pillows, we need blankets – we don't have cots here and people are having to sleep on the floor. We're trying to keep them comfortable."

Graham stressed that the shelter, which allows pets, will accept all sorts of animals. Those who brought their pets are allowed and encouraged to visit their pets as much as they like during their stay.

"We take dogs, cats, guinea pigs, birds – we take all animals," Graham said.

Seven members of the National Guard will remain stationed at Rickards 24 hours a day until the shelter closes .

Rickards and other shelters are still accepting volunteers.

At Lincoln High, Red Cross staff were expecting to house about 700 people between its cafeteria and gymnasium.

Heather Whitaker, shelter supervisor at Lincoln, said by 1 p.m. Sunday there were about 400 people at the shelter.

"It's going actually pretty smoothly, considering the number of people," Whitaker said at the registration table. "People are being cooperative and helpful."

Lincoln, like Rickards, is seeking donations of blankets, sheets and pillows.

Volunteers stepping up big

With a high volume of people seeking shelter, volunteers become an invaluable resource. Their role means long hours and not many breaks.

At Lincoln, students from the school's Red Cross Youth Club were staffing its registration table Sunday.

Hurricane Irma: LCS opens 10 schools as shelters....

continued

"Last night we got here at 8 p.m., and I went home at 1 a.m. Then I came back at 7 a.m." said Chelsea Lin, a senior. Kathy Tran, the club's president, left from volunteering at midnight and was back at Lincoln at 7 a.m.

Lin planned to go home to be with her family during the storm after volunteering.

Anyone who is interested can call the Red Cross Capital Area Chapter at 850-878-6080 and let them know if you would like to be a daytime or nighttime volunteer.

At Rickards, Graham said even volunteers who are new to disaster preparedness are stepping up in critical roles.

"There's a student here from FSU who has only been in town a few weeks who came here yesterday. She took over running what I call our canteen, where we distribute blankets, pillows towels and soap," Graham said.

List of LCS campus shelters

Chiles, Leon, Lincoln, Canopy Oaks, Oakridge, Woodville, Fort Braden, Rickards, SAIL and Nims are open as shelters. Visit <http://cms.leoncountyfl.gov/ei/> for more information.

Monday update: So long, Irma. Now the recovery

ITHACA JOURNAL

Hurricane Irma has departed Florida, leaving destruction, flooding and millions powerless in its wake. Now begins cleanup and recovery. This newsletter will be sent out daily to provide up-to-date information about the storm into your mailbox. You are receiving it because you're a subscriber to the Top 5 news list from your local news provider, or because you signed up. If you have friends, family or neighbors who would benefit from this information, please share the sign-up page with them.

Additionally, USA TODAY NETWORK newspapers in Florida: The (Fort Myers) News-Press, Naples Daily News, Florida Today, Treasure Coast Newspapers, Tallahassee Democrat and Pensacola News Journal have suspended their paywalls to provide important public-safety information.

Hurricane Irma finished its more than 30-hour trek from the Florida Keys, up the Gulf Coast, through North Florida and into Georgia on Monday. Irma's exit of Florida has some Sunshine Staters breathing a sigh of relief and some left assessing the damage. Others — read: millions — are simply in the dark without power.

To review: Irma, once a Category 5 out in the Atlantic, first made landfall in the Keys on Sunday as a Category 4 before making a second landfall near Naples. From there, it traveled up the Gulf Coast, losing steam as it crossed Sarasota, Tampa and parts of rural North Florida, where it made a final bow as a tropical storm.

Wondering what happened where you live? Here's a quick rundown:

- Everglades City is under water because of an 8-foot storm surge. Communities north of Everglades City and Marco Island fared better, but still had significant damage. About 93% of the county is without power. Top wind gust: 130 mph. Businesses not open. School closed through the end of the week.

- Miami Beach and Key Biscayne are not accessible. Downtown Miami streets flooded at Irma's peak but are now dry, but buildings are largely intact. About 75% of the county (811,790 customers) were powerless Monday. A few convenience stores were open. Government offices are closed through Tuesday.

- Fort Myers dodged a bullet with no catastrophic damage although more than half of Lee County — about 170,000 people — is without power. Many neighborhoods have downed trees and flooding. Businesses haven't opened, Lee County Schools are closed through Friday. Florida Gulf Coast University is closed until Monday.

- St. Lucie County received 20 inches of rain in 24 hours along with a 1-foot storm surge at the beach causing heavy flooding and downed power lines. There was a 99-mph gust at the St. Lucie Power Plant. County schools are closed through Tuesday. Local government offices closed Monday. About 110,000 customers, 80% of county, without power. A 7-Eleven remained open and a few gas stations came to life.

- Indian River County had flooding in a few areas. Nearly 60,000 people are without power and the highest wind gust clocked in at 63 mph. Local governments reopen Tuesday, schools open Thursday. Publix has reopened, but gas stations and restaurants remained closed.

- Stuart had a 100-mph wind gust and water levels rose 4.5 feet in one area. Three homes had structural damage and about 75,000 — 83% of the county — was without power. Gas shortages continue. Schools are closed through Tuesday.

- Tallahassee, despite avoiding the center of the storm, experienced downed trees. At one point, about 40% of the city was without power. Local and state government offices closed through Tuesday. Leon County schools are set to reopen Thursday, while Florida State, Florida A&M universities and Tallahassee Community College are closed through Friday.

- Melbourne residents' found damaged roofs and fences at home. There was flooding across US Route 1 and for a time the bridge to the barrier island was closed. The top wind gust was 100 mph and 83% of people were without power. Most businesses remained closed. Governments and schools are closed through Tuesday.

(NOTE: Article truncated for relevance to TCC.)

TCC, FAMU get top rankings for degrees to African-Americans

WAKULLA NEWS

Tallahassee Community College has been ranked No. 1 in Florida and No. 10 nationwide for the number of associate degrees in education awarded to African-American students.

In the same report, Florida A & M University was ranked as the No. 1 historically black college or university for awarding bachelor's degrees to African-American students.

When "Diverse: Issues in Higher Education" magazine released the 2017 edition of its Top 100 Producers of Minority Degrees listing, TCC ranked No. 11 in the United States for the number of overall Associate in Arts degrees awarded to African-American students and No. 24 nationwide for A.A. degrees granted to students from all minorities.

TCC also ranked No. 11 nationwide for the number of associate degrees in Liberal Arts & Sciences, General Studies and Humanities awarded to African-American students.

The rankings were based on 2015-16 data.

The A.A. degree enables students to transfer into a four-year university.

Tallahassee Community College is the top feeder school for FAMU, and approximately 1,500 TCC students have transferred straight into FAMU to earn bachelor's degrees since the 2007-08 academic year.

Tallahassee Community College awards more than 2,000 Associate in Arts degrees and more than 250 Associate in Science degrees annually and has produced more than 70,000 graduates in its 50-year history.

In May, TCC was one of only 11 community colleges nationwide to be designated a Most Promising Place to Work by Diverse: Issues in Higher Education magazine.

That research-based designation recognized TCC for its commitment to professional development opportunities, equality, workplace diversity, inclusion, salary and benefits, and family friendliness.

Tallahassee Community College won the same award in 2015 and is one of only seven community colleges nationwide to be recognized multiple times on the annual list of Most Promising Places to Work.

Artist bridges culture, time in vibrant design

AMANDA SIERADZKI
TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT

Seated at her childhood dinner table, Roopali Kambo could be found flipping through the pages of magazines like Architectural Digest. These publications were ordinary place settings within her family as her parents and siblings pursued architecture in their careers. As an architect's daughter, Kambo appreciated the modernity of Frank Lloyd Wright's "geometric stained glass windows," and family vacations always centered on what new structures could be seen.

"If I see a painting and the perspective is off, that's the first and only thing I see," laughs Kambo. "I can just hear my dad going, 'Where's your vanishing points? What happened to the perspective? That's going to fall over.'"

These experiences have carried over into Kambo's life as a painter and graphic design professor at Tallahassee Community College. As an artist, it's greatly impacted how she views form and shape, which she hopes attendees will experience in her works "Quest for Wisdom" and "Untethered" at the TCC Art Faculty Exhibit this September.

"[Untethered] has a lot of greenery and foliage, with two men walking and all you can see are their backs," describes Kambo, who says the vegetation reminds her of monsoon season in both her native India and Florida. "They have water pitchers balanced on their heads, and there's this camaraderie in this old world. I want to walk with them."

Kambo can recall her sense of wonder after receiving her first box of Crayola 64-count crayons and the swirling pigments of the tie-dye she made in school. Her primary medium uses acrylic on canvas, though she will often handle acrylics like watercolors, going for a softer look overall and utilizing mixed media and gold leaf to texturize.

"In my design, color can accentuate and augment a message, and in my painting it can change a message completely," said Kambo. "I've never shied away from very rich colors, whether it's as accents or imbued completely in vibrant colors for the emotion it conveys."

A graphic designer by training and vocation, Kambo has always been passionate about art. She experimented with everything from ceramics to fabrics before settling on painting as her primary medium. She attended the University of Tennessee for her BFA and Purdue University for her MFA, beginning her career as a communications professional in the Supreme Court of Florida and other state offices.

Eventually, Kambo transitioned into working as a professor at Florida State University for seven years before taking on her current position at TCC. She imparts her passion for design to her students each semester, partnering with the City of Tallahassee to provide them with real-world applications for their skills. When it comes to her tandem professions, she feels painting and design enrich and support one another, and hopes to devote more research to analyzing ancient scripts alongside recent technology like design typography.

"I'm fascinated with typography as an art form," says Kambo. "Developing my own scholarship has become important as the overlap is getting stronger for me as an artist. I'm looking at script that gets incorporated into my work and the shared beauty of the form."

The juxtaposition of old world charm versus modern innovation comes across in her paintings in both lettering and landscapes. During her past travels, she's been most inspired by the merging of old and new world designs in iconic city skylines like Chicago and Dubai.

Thematically, Kambo ruminates on symbols and mythology and often delves into eastern philosophies and spiritualism as her main subject matter. Walking around museums, she most enjoys viewing turn of the century works and the ancient remnants of the first civilizations. The rougher sculptures, jewelry, cave drawings, and totems capture her imagination as she divines visual landscapes from texts and images.

Artist bridges culture, time in vibrant design....

continued

In previous paintings, she's incorporated a range of symbols and imageries from dancing peacocks to the yogic chakras. As a self-ascribed "multicultural person," Kambo is curious about intersections between her own heritage and culturally shared icons like the "giving tree," which spans continents. In one particular series, she focused on spirals after reading a passage that described them as "a path leading from the outer consciousness to the inner soul."

"It's always something I've seen or read that's the trigger," states Kambo on what sparks her ideas. "The spiral appears in many different parts of the world. To me, it symbolized the journey and growth, and from a spiritual aspect, your awareness."

Kambo ascribes qualities like "dreamlike," "celestial," or "make-believe" to the worlds she paints. Summer allows her the luxury to explore her own growth as an artist, and she feels that many of the leaps she has accomplished on the canvas have occurred during this lush and productive season.

She welcomes varied perspectives on her artwork, often soliciting feedback from colleagues in order to gain a better understanding of her own work. For the TCC Art Faculty Exhibition, which will show through Sept. 26, she is excited to share the gallery with instructors Carlos Miranda, Ljiljana Obradovic-Edmiston, Julie Baroody, and Ed Toner. Kambo believes viewers will appreciate a refreshing range of work that will allow them to "see more."

In her work, "Quest for Wisdom," currently hanging in the gallery, Kambo remarks on the detail in the man's beard and eyes. He is an imagined person, however, not recreated from a reference photograph. In many ways, these are Kambo's pieces of human architecture, as they convey emotion through form. Whether it's the strength of their eyes or height of their stance, they each contain a message of blending worlds — the old with the new, side by side, always evolving.

"I think everybody has a signature, but I don't want to get into one specific style," says Kambo. "I want to be able to play with color and forms and see how that expression comes out. I want to be able to experiment because to me that's growth as an artist."

TCC to unveil new athletic training room

GADSDEN COUNTY TIMES

Tallahassee Community College will unveil its new Refreshment Services Pepsi & Vending Athletic Training Center on Thursday, September 21, inside the Bill Hebrock Eagledome.

The ceremony will begin at 11 a.m. with a press conference, followed by a ribbon-cutting and walk-through of the Eagles' new training room.

The project was made possible through a \$50,000 gift from Refreshment Services Pepsi and a matching gift from the TCC Foundation's President's Circle.

Heather Mitchell, executive director of the TCC Foundation, lauded the collaborative effort.

"We are very appreciative of the opportunity to partner with Refreshment Services Pepsi & Vending, a long-time supporter of the College," said Mitchell. "At the same time, this couldn't have become a reality without the support of our President's Circle members, who enthusiastically backed this project."

Scott Cason, general manager of Refreshment Services Pepsi & Vending, echoed Mitchell's sentiments.

"Refreshment Services Pepsi & Vending is excited to see this facility come to life," Cason said. "It will enhance the student-athlete's experience, and we are proud to be a partner with TCC to help bring this vision to fruition."

The new training room, which includes dedicated office space for the head trainer, totals 1,153 square feet, more than double the 503 square feet currently allocated for athletic training services.

"The role our training staff plays is paramount to the success of our student-athletes," said Rob Chaney, TCC director of athletics. "I'm thrilled that we have the opportunity to emphasize this facet of our program by providing the appropriate space and resources needed to deliver more efficient and more effective service to our student-athletes."

The facility's new location adjacent to the playing floor of the Bill Hebrock Eagledome will give the TCC basketball teams immediate access to the training room on their way to and from the locker room on game nights.

"This project represents a step forward for our program in so many ways," added Chaney. "Better service to our student-athletes and visiting teams, a better work environment for our training staff, and a facility that will open the door to more partnerships in the sports medicine community."

TCC unveils new athletic training room

JORDAN CULVER

TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT

Athletic departments at four-year universities aren't the only ones participating in the facilities arms race.

It might not be on a multimillion-dollar scale – yet – but junior colleges are making changes to their facilities in order to entice new recruits, too.

Tallahassee Community College on Thursday unveiled a new \$100,000 training room connected to the basketball court in the Bill Hebrock Eagledome.

The training facility, complete with an office for the head trainer, cold tubs, taping stations and treatment tables, still has a few more things to add. Some of the additions for the facility had to wait after Hurricane Irma tore through Florida.

Still, during a ceremony that included members of the TCC Foundation's President's Circle – which footed half the cost of the facility after Refreshment Services Pepsi gave \$50,000 – athletes and coaches, attendees were pleased with the latest addition to TCC athletics.

The new facility is 1,153 square feet, more than double the 503 square feet that was used in the old training room.

It's attached to the basketball court and in between the court and the locker room.

Sophomore softball player Samantha Malik spoke on behalf of the athletes at the ceremony.

"This is a really big event for us today," she said. "The TCC training room is a big room for us. Our old trainer helped us out a lot with getting us back into shape and getting us ready to get back on the field so thank you guys so much."

TCC Athletic Director Rob Chaney said roughly \$75,000 went into renovating an existing dance studio attached to the basketball court to create the training room. Another \$25,000 went into buying new equipment.

"I think (colleges) are seeing the value intercollegiate athletics can bring to their institutions," Chaney said. "The 17-, 18-, 19-year-olds we go out and recruit, those things are important to them, just like they're important to the individuals that are being recruited to the four-year programs."

"You can start to look around the country, even in the state of Florida, and there are some very nice facilities going up, be it a sports-specific or auxiliary service, such as the training room. We just want to continue to press forward and be best-in-class at TCC."

The ceremony included photos of the old training room at TCC. Before members of the President's Circle and representatives from Refreshment Services Pepsi could enter the new training room, there was a ribbon-cutting ceremony.

"Refreshment Services Pepsi & Vending is excited to see this facility come to life," GM Scott Cason said in a statement. "It will enhance the student-athlete's experience and we are proud to be a partner with TCC to help bring this vision to fruition."

TCC recognized in state and national rankings

TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT (SPONSORED STORIES)

Tallahassee Community College continues to rank high in measures of student success during and after college. The College was recently recognized by *Diverse: Issues in Higher Education* magazine for its commitment to providing access to higher education and academic success for minority students.

When the magazine released the 2017 edition of its Top 100 Producers of Minority Degrees listing, TCC ranked No. 11 in the United States for the number of general Associate in Arts degrees awarded to African-American students and No. 24 nationwide for A.A. degrees granted to students from all minorities.

The College also ranked No. 1 in Florida and No. 10 nationwide for the number of associate degrees in education awarded to African-American students. The rankings were based on 2015-16 data.

Earlier in August, TCC was recognized as Florida's top two-year college by Zippia.com, a website that provides career resources for students and job seekers.

That No. 1 state ranking reflects employment rates for students 10 years after graduation and was based on data from College Scorecard and the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System of the National Center for Education Statistics, part of the U.S. Department of Education. Overall, TCC ranked No. 40 nationwide for the percentage of graduates employed 10 years after graduation.

"We already knew that a TCC education has a significant positive impact on graduates' lifetime earnings," said TCC President Jim Murdaugh. "These impressive employment statistics are further evidence that the work we do to help students identify and reach their career goals truly pays off."

In March, TCC was named Florida's ACT Career Preparedness Exemplar for the 2016-2017 ACT College and Career Readiness Campaign. The campaign identifies exemplars in each of four categories—students, high schools, postsecondary institutions and employers—for each participating state. Tallahassee Community College was Florida's only postsecondary exemplar.

TCC and Westminster Oaks launch lifelong learning partnership

TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT (CAMPUS NOTES)

Tallahassee Community College and Westminster Oaks retirement community launched a partnership agreement this month.

This new partnership provides lifelong learning opportunities, volunteer activities and engagement with TCC students, faculty and staff for Westminster Oaks residents. A central part of the agreement is the launch of TCC's new Growing Resourceful Eagles At Westminster, or G.R.E.A.T., program. The program provides a slate of short courses specifically targeted to the interests of residents of the retirement community.

Westminster Oaks also plans to offer a tuition reimbursement plan for Westminster Oaks employees who wish to further their skills.

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

The Power of Breaking Fear: A TCC Spark! presentation slated

TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT (CAMPUS NOTES)

Tallahassee Community College will host a speaking engagement featuring motivational speaker, life coach, entrepreneur and author Tim S. Marshall Wednesday at 2 p.m. Marshall's works cover a wide range of topics including personal growth, entrepreneurship, young professionals, sales, leadership, millennials, and breaking fear in relationships. Marshall, the author of seven books in two years, will discuss how to turn weakness into strength, fear into speed and self-doubt into power.

The event sponsored by First Commerce Credit Union is free and open to the public. Interested individuals may register at <https://breakfear.eventbrite.com>. Seating is limited in the TCC Center for Workforce Development Room 105, located at 444 Appleyard Drive.

Contact Rick Paul, TCC Spark! program coordinator at 201-8762 or paulric@tcc.fl.edu for more information.

TCC gets new training center

WAKULLA NEWS

Tallahassee Community College has unveiled a new Refreshment Services Pepsi & Vending Athletic Training Center inside the Bill Hebrock Eagledome. The project was made possible through a \$50,000 gift from Refreshment Services Pepsi and a matching gift from the TCC Foundation's President's Circle.

The new training room, which includes office space for the head trainer, totals 1,153 square feet, more than double the 503 square feet currently allocated for athletic training services. The location adjacent to the playing floor of the Eagledome will give the TCC basketball teams access to the training room on their way to and from the locker room on game nights.

Scott announces state resources available to Puerto Rico

ABC-7 (FORT MYERS, NAPLES, PORT CHARLOTTE)

Gov. Rick Scott on Sunday provided an update on resources available to be deployed to Puerto Rico to assist with recovery and response efforts following Hurricane Maria.

"As Puerto Rico continues to respond to and recover from Hurricane Maria, Florida stands ready to deploy all available resources and personnel to our neighbors to help in these efforts," Scott said.

Scott visited Puerto Rico last week for a first-hand look at the destruction that left the U.S. territory devastated.

"The crisis in Puerto Rico is unlike anything we have seen before and Florida is going to do everything in our power to help everyone impacted by this storm get back on their feet. I will continue to make sure that our state leaders are in contact with officials in Puerto Rico. The State of Florida stands with Puerto Rico and will keep working to make sure they have everything they need," Scott said.

What the State of Florida is doing to support Puerto Rico:

EDUCATION: Florida school districts have processes in place to enroll K-12 students displaced by natural disasters, and all districts are prepared to enroll Puerto Rican evacuees. Families displaced by Hurricane Maria have begun arriving in Florida, and a number have already enrolled their students.

The below Florida state colleges and universities are waiving out-of-state tuition and fees for students from Puerto Rico displaced by Hurricane Maria following a request by Governor Scott:

Broward College; Chipola College; College of Central Florida; Daytona State; Eastern Florida State College; Florida Atlantic University; Florida Gateway; Florida Gulf Coast University; Florida International University; Florida Keys Community College; Florida Southwestern State College; Florida State College at Jacksonville; Florida State University; Gulf Coast State College; Hillsborough Community College; Indian River State College; Lake Sumter; Miami Dade College; New College of Florida; North Florida Community College; Northwest Florida State College; Palm Beach State; Pasco-Hernando State College; Pensacola State College; Polk State College;

Santa Fe College; Seminole State; South Florida State College; St. Johns River State College; St. Petersburg College; State College of Florida, Manatee–Sarasota; **Tallahassee Community College**; University of Central Florida; University of Florida; University of North Florida; University of South Florida; University of West Florida; Valencia College.

Last week, at the request of Puerto Rico Governor Ricardo Rosselló, Governor Scott visited San Juan, Puerto Rico to help coordinate response and recovery efforts. On Friday, Governor Scott met with President Trump and Vice President Pence to discuss his trip to Puerto Rico and actions the State of Florida is taking to help with response and recovery. Governor Scott also hosted a call with Puerto Rican government officials and Florida state agency leaders last week to ensure the State of Florida is doing everything possible to help Puerto Rico recover.

(NOTE: Article truncated for relevance to TCC.)

TCC's bachelor's level nursing program takes next step

TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT (CAMPUS NOTES)

The Bachelor of Science in Nursing program at Tallahassee Community College has been granted candidate status by the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing. Candidate status was granted following ACEN's review of the program's potential to achieve accreditation.

Programs must complete the rest of the accreditation process within two years after being granted candidate status.

The BSN program at TCC serves registered nurses who already hold an Associate in Science in Nursing degree and wish to add the BSN credential. It is primarily an online program.

For information, contact TCC's Healthcare Programs Division at 558-4500 or healthedu@tcc.fl.edu.

Gift from RGVI will support TCC classroom renovation

TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT (CAMPUS NOTES)

Rogers, Gunter, Vaughn Insurance has made a gift of \$25,000 to Tallahassee Community College to support the renovation of a classroom in TCC's Science and Mathematics building. The gift was presented at the Sept. 18 meeting of TCC's District Board of Trustees.

The company was represented by partners Sam Rogers, Bart Gunter, Jim Duncan and Kevin Vaughn. The latter is vice chair of the District Board of Trustees and also a member of the TCC Foundation's board of directors.

The Foundation has been working with groups and individuals throughout the community to support classroom renovations and has already identified donors for 34 of the 50 classrooms targeted for renovations.

The classroom that RGVI will sponsor is typically used for mathematics classes, which are an important part of the program of study for students majoring in risk management, insurance and related fields.

Leon County Schools prepare for bump in enrollment

TAYLOR KNIGHT
WFSU

With thousands of Puerto Rican families expected to come to Florida following Hurricane Maria, Leon County Schools are preparing for bump in enrollment.

Leon County school district spokesman, Chris Petley says officials want the incoming students to feel welcomed. The district will provide counseling and assistance with language barriers.

"If there are folks coming into our area we will do what we can to ensure that they are ready and welcomed into our system," said Petley.

Under the federal law, a student who is evacuating a natural disaster can receive free lunch. Florida State University and Tallahassee Community College are waiving out of state tuition to students from Puerto Rico.

FSU's law school prepares to accept students from Puerto Rico

BYRON DOBSON

TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT

Florida State's College of Law will have a better idea Tuesday about how many displaced students it will be hosting from the University of Puerto Rico.

But early responses to its request for housing has been overwhelming, said Dean Erin O'Connor.

The college is planning for as many as 20 upper-level students to continue their studies at FSU, she said.

O'Connor said she reached out to her counterpart, Dean Vivian I. Neptune Rivera, following reports of the destruction caused by Hurricane Maria to the territory.

"I let her know we would be willing to take some of their upper-level students," O'Connor said. "I let her know we were one of the few law schools in the country where the students would be able to catch up by the end of the semester."

O'Connor said FSU's law school started the last week of August and then it was closed for 10 days because of the threat of Hurricane Irma.

It will be months before the University of Puerto Rico is able to resume classes.

O'Connor said members of FSU's law school faculty have offered to teach a shorter version of the courses needed for required credit. The visiting students, who already have paid their tuition at the University of Puerto Rico, will have their tuition and fees waived for the fall semester at FSU.

O'Connor said reaching out to the university is "the right thing to do." The college had received offers to assist students when Irma was threatening Tallahassee, she said.

In addition, following Hurricane Harvey, FSU law students assisted the Florida Bar in translating its website into different languages and students have offered pro bono assistance in the wake of Irma.

On Sunday, O'Connor reached out to FSU law alumni to secure housing for the students. In response, graduates and others who learned about the request on social media have offered to help pay rent for students or to provide housing. One person who has a house on the market offered to make it available to students until the property is sold.

"It's been wonderful," O'Connor said.

Angelika Traverso, a historian for the Puerto Rican Student Association at FSU, said she was proud of FSU's efforts to assist the students with their studies.

"The fact the college is taking in students is magnificent," she said. "They are helping the students finish their studies so they can go back and help Puerto Rico. It's a beautiful thing."

On Friday, the Puerto Rican Student Association will host this week's installment of Global Café, which features foods from around the world. Traditional Puerto Rican foods will be sold for \$7 each. The event is held in the Global Dining Room, beginning at 11:30 a.m. at 110 S. Woodward Ave.

Half of the proceeds will go to United for Puerto Rico, a relief effort backed by the First Lady of Puerto Rico Beatriz Rosellò.

Gov. Rick Scott last week requested Florida universities and state colleges offer in-state tuition for students in Puerto Rico displaced by the hurricane.

Ten of the 12 public universities — including Florida State — agreed.

Tallahassee Community College, North Florida Community College and Chipola College are among the state colleges allowing such arrangements.

(NOTE: Article truncated for relevance to TCC.)

TCC tops for seeing grads secure jobs

WAKULLA NEWS

Tallahassee Community College has been recognized as Florida's top two-year college based on employment rates for students 10 years after graduation. The rankings were published by Zippia.com, a website that provides career resources for students and job seekers.

In his article titled, "The Best Junior College in Each State for Getting a Job," author Ryan Morris said the rankings were based on data from College Scorecard and the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System of the National Center for Education Statistics, part of the U.S. Department of Education.

Zippia also identified 50 top-performing community colleges around the nation for employment rates. Overall, TCC ranked 40th nationwide for the percentage of graduates employed 10 years after graduation.

"We already knew that a TCC education has a significant positive impact on graduates' lifetime earnings," said TCC President Jim Murdaugh. "These impressive employment statistics are further evidence that the work we do to help students identify and reach their career goals truly pays off."

For information, contact Al Moran at (850) 201-6079 or morana@tcc.fl.edu.

'Iron Chef' star coming to town in March 2018

What's fresh will shape Cleaver and Cork menu

MARK HINSON

TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT

When celebrity chef and James Beard Award-winner Amanda Freitag, 45, was studying at the Culinary Institute of America in the late '80s, she flunked a very important cooking exam in front of her teachers.

Freitag (pronounced Fry-tag) went blank.

"It was a practical test and I guess I wasn't really ready," Freitag said during a recent phone interview from her home in New York City. "I got a whole chicken and I just looked at this bird and thought, 'I don't know how to do this.' I turned it on its side, on its head, on its neck and I just didn't know what to do with it. It tripped me up and got me nervous. I couldn't get it all done on time."

Instead of hanging up her chef's hat, Freitag went back to the chopping board.

"It led me to practicing like crazy and getting to know things so well. I think it was a good experience for me to fail that test. ... I cut up more chickens after that than Poughkeepsie, New York, could supply," Freitag said and laughed. "It prepared me more for 'Iron Chef' than anything else I've done. It prepared me for that kind of pressure. You find education in the places you're least expecting."

Do not expect the star of such hit shows as "Iron Chef," "Chopped" and "American Diner Revival" to freeze up when she arrives on March 2 as the guest chef for the third annual "Cleaver and Cork" benefit dinner at Goodwood Museum and Gardens. Tickets go on sale on Wednesday, Oct. 11 and the money helps support the Tallahassee Community College Foundation.

Freitag will prepare a four-course meal featuring, well, she's not sure yet.

"I will find out what's in season in Tallahassee in March," Freitag said. "I want to cook something from that area. I will have a look around when I get there."

The Goodwood Museum gig marks Freitag's first-ever visit to Tallahassee. She grew up in New Jersey and went to Cedar Grove High School, where a home economics teacher noticed her talent and suggested the Culinary Institute of America (aka the CIA).

After graduation, she worked for chef Jean-Georges Vongerichten at Vong New York. In 1994, she left Vong to cook for chef Diane Forley at Verbena, a quiet restaurant in the posh Gramercy Park neighborhood in Manhattan. Verbena was popular with the locals and had a fiercely loyal following.

"That (Verbena) was a beautiful restaurant and a great experience for me," Freitag said. "It's been gone for a while, the rent was very high in Gramercy Park. It was a gem of a restaurant. That was a really big influence on my career."

She went on to work in the kitchens of other New York restaurants such as The Harrison and The Empire Diner.

In the fall of 2015, Freitag wrote and published the cookbook titled "The Chef Next Door: A Pro Chef's Recipes For Fun, Fearless Home Cooking."

"I love the book, it's like a child to me," Freitag said. "It has multiple uses, it can always be on your kitchen counter. ... It's a love letter to home cooking."

The chef confessed that it is harder to cook in her cramped New York apartment when she does not have a staff on hand, prep chefs and every cooking tool within easy reach.

While she is in Tallahassee, Freitag will also conduct a live cooking demonstration called "A Session With Chef" on March 1 at the Maguire Center at Westminster Oaks.

Even though Freitag has worked at some of Manhattan's finest restaurants, she described herself as "a Jersey girl" who loves Bruce Springsteen and occasionally likes to chow down on a patty melt. When she found out about the Southern hamburger chain Whataburger and its famed patty melt, Freitag's voice brightened.

"Oh, that's definitely on the list of things to do when I get to Tallahassee," Freitag said.

African-American History calendar nominations open

TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT (CAMPUS NOTES)

Tallahassee Community College's African-American History Month planning committee is now accepting nominations for the 18th annual Cherry Hall Alexander African-American History calendar.

The 2018 calendar, "African-Americans in Times of War," will recognize African-American veterans and current service members in Gadsden, Leon and Wakulla counties who demonstrate significant contributions to the state of Florida through civic or public service, business or education and offer voluntary community service on behalf of veterans' causes.

The form is available online. All nominations must be submitted by Oct. 30, no later than 11:59 p.m.

For information, contact the African-American History Month Committee at 201-8391 or aahmc@tcc.fl.edu.

Leon County Commission workshop focusing on crime

KARL ETTERS

TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT

A contingent of local law enforcement leaders will convene Tuesday to discuss the latest statistics and tactics to make inroads in addressing crime.

In June, the same month annual state data showed that in 2016 Leon County led the state in violent crime rate, Leon County commissioners asked for a better understanding of what the data meant and how it could be used to shape the deployment of resources against crime.

At the workshop, commissioners will decide whether to approve the Leon County Sheriff's Office's \$73 million annual budget submitted in May by Sheriff Walt McNeil, possibly ask the county Public Safety Coordinating Council to recommend strategies for using reserve funding for public safety or to direct staff to consider developing a plan to use emergency funds for a tourism marketing plan, according to county documents.

On the agenda to attend are McNeil, Tallahassee Police Chief Michael DeLeo, Florida State University Police Chief David Perry, Florida A&M Police Chief Terence Calloway, [Tallahassee Community College Police Chief Greg Gibson](#) and State Attorney Jack Campbell.

The group has for months been meeting to determine how best to pool each agency's resources, identify the high crime areas in the community and to pinpoint who is responsible so those individuals can be targeted.

The workshop is being held in the Leon County Commission Chambers, 301 S. Monroe St. from 12:30 to 3 p.m. Tuesday.

Law enforcement leaders graduate from Florida Leadership Academy

CAPITAL SOUP

The Florida Criminal Justice Executive Institute announces the graduation today of 32 senior executives from the 20th Senior Leadership Program. The graduates represent criminal justice agencies from across the state.

The graduates met for seven weeks over a 10-month period and took classes on topics such as risk management, budgeting, procedural justice and futures forecasting as it relates to criminal justice.

The goal of the Senior Leadership Program is to prepare Florida's criminal justice leadership for the challenging and changing demands of the future. Class participants study the trends and events that will challenge criminal justice professionals and the state in the new millennium and examine the leadership skills necessary to create and lead the changes that lie ahead.

Below is a list of graduates from the 20th Senior Leadership Program.

Lieutenant Stacy C. Barasch, Miami-Dade Police Department

Instructional Coordinator Andrea Blalock, Florida Public Safety Institute

Lieutenant Brian K. Blalock, Lynn Haven Police Department

Captain Guy Carpenter II, Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission

Captain Ellery R. Collado, Florida Highway Patrol

Lieutenant Charles W. Eades, Ocala Police Department

Captain Buchanan Ezra Folsom, Jr., Florida Highway Patrol

Lieutenant Vincent Giovenco, Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office

Captain Wayne W. Godwin, Osceola County Corrections Department

Lieutenant Scott Hogeboom, Walton County Sheriff's Office

Assistant Warden Tifani S. Knox, Florida Department of Corrections, Union Correctional Institution

Captain Mark A. Laramore, Panama City Police Department

Captain Shane Love, Seminole County Sheriff's Office

Captain Scott M. Mason, Volusia County Division of Corrections

Lieutenant April L. McQueen, Okaloosa County Department of Corrections

Captain Michael R. Meaney, Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission, Office of Inspector General

Lieutenant Lori Mingione, Osceola County Sheriff's Office

Captain Amy L. Moyer, Pinellas County Sheriff's Office

Commander Terence Nicolas, Altamonte Springs Police Department

Captain Charlie A. Nix, II, Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office

Lieutenant Charles Padgett, Office of Agricultural Law Enforcement

Lieutenant Nathaly M. Patterson, St. Petersburg Police Department

Regional Director James L. Perdue, Florida Department of Corrections, Community Corrections

Captain Jack V. Peterson, Pinellas County Sheriff's Office

Lieutenant Kevin W. Roesner, Winter Park Police Department

Captain Jason Ross, Office of Agricultural Law Enforcement

Lieutenant Ian C. Rylott, Polk County Sheriff's Office

Captain Rama Shuster, Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission

Lieutenant Robert D. Smith, Jr., Seminole County Sheriff's Office

Lieutenant Danny Stallings, Panama City Police Department

Regional Director Billy Starke, Jr., Florida Department of Juvenile Justice, Residential Services

Lieutenant Chris Wyatt, Florida Department of Law Enforcement, Capitol Police

Aspen Institute names top 150 U.S. community colleges eligible for 2019 Aspen Prize \$1 Million Prize Recognizes Excellence in Community College Student Success Outcomes

FLORIDA TREND

The Aspen Institute College Excellence Program today named the nation's top 150 community colleges eligible to compete for the \$1 million Aspen Prize for Community College Excellence, the nation's signature recognition of high achievement and performance among America's community colleges. With a singular focus on student success, the Aspen Prize recognizes institutions with outstanding achievements in four areas: learning; certificate and degree completion; employment and earnings; and high levels of access and success for minority and low-income students.

Higher education attainment has never been more important. Estimates from Georgetown University's Center on Education and the Workforce suggest that out of the 11.6 million jobs created in the post-recession economy, 11.5 million require at least some college education. The vast majority of students who enroll in community colleges do so because they believe that postsecondary education will provide them a path to rewarding work, stable employment, and family-sustaining wages.

"Especially in the current social and economic climate, it is exceptionally important that our nation's community colleges develop the diverse talent needed to fuel democratic engagement, social mobility, and economic opportunity and growth," said Josh Wyner, executive director of the Aspen Institute College Excellence Program. "Through this competition we're working to inspire other institutions across our country to ensure more students succeed in college and their lives beyond those campuses."

The 150 community colleges named today as eligible to compete for the 2019 Prize were selected from a pool of nearly 1,000 public two-year colleges nationwide using publicly available data on student outcomes. Located in 39 states in urban, rural, and suburban areas, serving as few as 300 students and as many as 95,000 students, these colleges represent the diversity and depth of the community college sector. This year, there are nearly 60 institutions eligible to compete for the Prize that were not eligible for the 2017 Aspen Prize. For a full list of the top 150 eligible institutions, [click here](#).

The top ten finalists for the 2019 Aspen Prize will be named in May 2018. The Aspen Institute will then conduct site visits to each of the finalists and collect additional quantitative data, including employment and earnings data. A distinguished Prize Jury will select a grand prize winner, finalist(s) with distinction, and rising star(s) in spring 2019. To read more on the selection process, [click here](#).

Previous winners of the Aspen Prize for Community College Excellence include: Lake Area Technical College in Watertown, South Dakota (2017); Santa Fe College in Gainesville, Florida (2015); co-winners

Santa Barbara City College in Santa Barbara, California and Walla Walla Community College in Walla Walla, Washington (2013); Valencia College in Orlando, Florida (2011 inaugural Prize winner). According to the Prize rules, former winners are not eligible to reapply this cycle.

Florida Colleges Eligible for the Aspen Prize:

- Broward College
- Chipola College
- Daytona State College
- Eastern Florida State College
- Florida Keys Community College
- Florida State College at Jacksonville
- Indian River State College
- Lake-Sumter State College
- Miami Dade College
- North Florida Community College
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TCC and union at an impasse for collective bargaining negotiations

ALEX CRESCENTI

WCTV

Last year, the faculty of Tallahassee Community College unionized, but now negotiations with the school have hit an impasse.

The United Faculty of Florida represents the faculty employees at Tallahassee Community College. Now, they are trying to find answers after the college declared an impasse in the bargaining proceedings.

"We feel very strongly that this is a premature declaration of impasse we've seen really no substantive bargaining from their side," said Jen Robinson, the president of the UFF TCC.

College representatives say they want to focus on student success, faculty accountability, and fiscal responsibility.

"The first ones going to be the toughest one you're going to do. It gets a little bit easier, so they say, as you move forward," said Al Moran the VP of Communications.

The UFF says the college is attempting to take away some pay raises and benefits, it could put a burden on teachers. With additional students in the classroom and less one on one contact

"We feel as if the impasse is being used as a means of going around the good faith bargaining process," said Martin Balinski the Vice President of the UFF TCC.

TCC officials say everyone at the college has the students in mind when they go to the negotiating table.

"I'm talking about the executives, the deans, mostly everyone is thinking about the students success," added Moran.

Both sides say they hope they can come to a resolution soon enough. They have been negotiating for around a year now. The next session is scheduled for November 6 and that will be the tenth in the process.

TCC, faculty union remain far apart on key issues

Everything from teaching load to pay on the table

BYRON DOBSON

TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT

Tallahassee Community College faculty union representatives claim the administration is ignoring their proposals and making heavy-handed demands that will hurt teaching and students.

But a veteran labor attorney for the firm representing TCC trustees says nearly a year of talks with little progress has given the administration no choice but to declare an impasse, which it did in September.

James Crosland, a labor attorney for Bryant, Miller, Olive's Miami office, said the administration declared the impasse after submitting "30 to 40 proposals," as did the union, with key issues unresolved.

"We are far apart on the core issues," he said. "They said at the table that they thought we declared a premature impasse. We do not agree with that. We feel we have bargained in good faith."

Some of the key outstanding issues include teaching loads, work loads, payment for extra classes, summer assignment pay and faculty advisement.

"TCC is taking an entire contract to impasse, which is totally unprecedented in the state of Florida," said Martin Balinsky, an earth science professor and union vice president.

At the union's request, both sides have agreed to continue meeting, with the next session in November. A special magistrate has been selected, but it could be early next year before hearings start.

Tom Wazlavek, the United Faculty of Florida representative for the union, had instead asked for a mediator, whose services would have been free.

Meanwhile, the union is urging members to attend Monday's board of trustees meeting.

Contract talks are being held against the backdrop of an August 2016 139-22 faculty vote to be represented in collective bargaining by the United Faculty of Florida. The union includes full-time faculty, librarians and counselors hired as of May 2016.

Members of the collective bargaining team say the administration has taken a hard-line stance during the negotiations.

"The idea behind collective bargaining is supposed to be give and take," said Jen Robinson, an art history professor and union president. "We're not saying management is going to agree with everything we've put forward. They have not taken a scrap of anything we've offered."

There have been nine bargaining sessions since September 2016. Balinsky said the administration has not "put anything on the table since Aug. 4."

KEY ISSUES

Teaching loads: Under the current status, faculty teaching large classes may receive extra assignment pay for teaching a fifth class, which the union wants to maintain.

The administration is proposing all faculty should teach either five or six classes, regardless of class load.

Work hours: TCC faculty currently are required to work 25 hours on campus, in addition to 15 hours or reassigned time, used for public service, serving on committees, professional development. The union wants this maintained.

The administration is requiring faculty work 40 hours per week on campus.

"We don't understand why a 40-hour work week is such a burden," Crosland said.

Currently, 80 percent of the faculty have some amount of reassigned time out of the classroom, TCC spokesman Al Moran said.

Moran said better management of reassigned team could result in a savings of \$1 million annually. Currently, adjunct professors are hired to teach the classes if the professor opts out, even though the professor is are paid for teaching a fifth class. They receive more money if they choose to teach a sixth class.

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Overload assignment pay (for teaching an additional three-hour class): The union proposes keeping the current salary rate of \$3,837 for those with doctorates, \$3,600 for those with a master's and \$3,476 with a bachelor's degree.

The administration proposes \$3,300 for doctorates, \$3,000 for master's and \$2,700 for those with a bachelor's degree.

"Overall, they are attempting to take 20 percent to 30 percent of our salary," Balinsky said.

Moran said TCC's salaries for teaching additional classes ranks No. 1 of 19 state colleges providing data on overload salaries. TCC faculty are the seventh highest paid in the state college system, records show.

Summer assignment pay: The union's proposal maintains the current rate of faculty with doctorates earning up to \$22,170 for a full summer load, \$20,820 for those with master's degrees and \$19,815 for those with bachelor's degrees.

The administration's proposal provides for 20 percent of the professor's base salary. The union calculates that based on an average faculty salary of \$57,000, the average maximum allowed under the proposal is \$11,400.

Faculty advisement hours required: The union proposes maintaining the current practice that all faculty are required to spend 10 hours per academic year in advising duties.

The administration is requiring that number be increased from 10 hours annually to 128 hours.

Robinson and Balinsky said only two state colleges use faculty for advising students on classes.

First choice on summer teaching assignments and extra assignments: Full-time faculty currently have first choice on teaching during the summer and extra teaching assignments. The administration says this should up to the discretion of deans.

"We've always had conversations with (deans)," Robinson said. "It's not us strong-arming them."

Library faculty: The union proposes the library faculty maintain tenure-track positions. The administration's proposal removes that status. Crosland said this put TCC in line with trends within the state college system.