

TALLAHASSEE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

In the News



March 10 - April 13, 2018

TALLAHASSEE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

In the News



- Tallahassee Democrat 4, 6,
17-20, 22, 24-31, 36-37, 40-45, 48
- WTXL 5, 10, 13-14, 21, 23, 33
- Gadsden County Times 7-8
- Havana Herald 9-10, 16
- Wakulla News 9, 46
- Washington Examiner. 11-12
- Courier News 15
- Foster Folly News. 32
- WCTV 33, 46
- WFSU 34
- FCRD Spotlight 35
- Capital Outlook. 38
- Hyland.com 39
- LINK for Counselors 47

March 10 - April 13, 2018

TALLAHASSEE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

In the News



Electronic Media

- March 12 - WCTV/WTXL - TCC women's basketball team earns at-large bid to national tourney
- March 20 - WCTV - TCC to host annual Women's History Month honors celebration
- March 21 - WTXL - Ten community members and five students honored at WHM ceremony
- March 21 - WCTV - Women's basketball team advances to NJCAA quarterfinals
- March 23 - WTXL - New TCC civility policy raises concerns for some on campus
- March 23 - WCTV/WTXL - Women's basketball wins in NJCAA Final Four, advances to title game
- March 24 - WTXL - TCC's women's basketball team wins first national title in program history
- March 26 - WCTV/WTXL - Basketball team returns to Tallahassee with championship trophy
- March 28 - WCTV - TCC hosts Part-Time Job Fair on campus
- March 29 - WCTV/WTXL - National championship-winning basketball team visits news studios
- March 30 - WCTV/WTXL - TCC offers CRASE training at Wakulla Center
- April 11 - WCTV/WTXL - TCC hosts open discussion on gun violence and control
- April 12 - WTXL - Florida Disabled Outdoors Association to host event at Lifetime Sports Complex

Rotary Club creates scholarship for Habitat home student

TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT (CAMPUS NOTES)

Rotary Club of Tallahassee has established a new scholarship at TCC to support students who are residents of a home built by Big Bend Habitat for Humanity. The \$10,000 gift comes from a bequest of the late Leon Gilchrist, a former president of the Rotary Club of Tallahassee.

According to current president Steve Liner, Gilchrist supported the club in many ways. He was particularly passionate about supporting and volunteering for the local Habitat for Humanity home builds. In fact, the rest of Gilchrist's \$50,000 bequest was directed to support the building of a Big Bend Habitat Home in his name. The Rotary Club of Tallahassee- Leon Gilchrist Habitat home was completed in mid-February.

This TCC scholarship is unique because it has been designated to assist students who are residents of a home built by Big Bend Habitat for Humanity. Scholarship recipients may be enrolled in a credit program or a workforce development program at TCC.

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

Four TCC students named to All-Florida Academic Team

TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT (CAMPUS NOTES)

Four TCC students have been named to the 2018 All-Florida Academic Team for their outstanding scholarship and work in the community. The honorees are Robert Martin from Clearwater, Brianna Mead from Tallahassee, Nathan Davis from Wisconsin and Maria Kuzina from Moscow, Russia.

Only 132 students from the 28 institutions in the Florida College System were named to the All-Florida Academic Team. There are more than 800,000 students in the Florida College System.

The competition is sponsored by the Florida region of Phi Theta Kappa, the international honor society of two-year colleges. Students are nominated by their colleges and selected based on high achievement in the classroom, leadership on campus and service to the community. They will be honored at an awards ceremony held in Tampa on April 6.

The adviser for TCC's chapter of Phi Theta Kappa is assistant professor Joseph Hurd. For information, contact him at hurdj@tcc.fl.edu or (850) 201-9936.

#TCCBasketball: Eagle women earn at-large berth to national tourney

WTXL

Tallahassee Community College is headed back to the NJCAA Division I Women's National Basketball Championship.

On Monday, the Eagles received an at-large berth into the 24-team, single-elimination tournament in Lubbock, Texas, March 19-24.

Tallahassee (24-6) received the No. 11 seed and will open against No. 22 seed Western Nebraska Community College at 1 p.m. eastern on Tuesday, March 20. The winner will advance to play No. 6 seed Wabash Valley (Ill.) College at 8 p.m., Wednesday, March 21.

"Lubbock or Leave It Alone has been our mantra all season," said Tallahassee head coach Franqua "Q" Bedell. "It's rewarding to see that come to fruition through hard work, sacrifice and the support from the (TCC) administration, our classroom instructors and the local community.

"It's about more than just basketball. As we've gone through the journey this year, we've watched our team grow as young women, students and basketball players – this experience will allow them to have an opportunity to play for something much bigger than themselves."

The Eagles will arrive in Lubbock needing five wins to claim a national championship. The path will be anything but easy, however. Should Tallahassee continue to advance in the tournament, there are potential match-ups with Panhandle Conference rivals Northwest Florida State College and Gulf Coast State College in the quarterfinals and semifinals, respectively.

For complete national tournament information, visit TCCeagles.com or follow TCC Athletics on Twitter (@TCCeagles) and Facebook (/TCCeagles).

FAMU professor challenges Striplin for School Board seat

ASHLEY WHITE

TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT

A Florida A& M University associate professor who has been an educator for more than 30 years is running for the School Board seat held by Alva Striplin.

Patty Ball Thomas filed to run for the District 1 seat on March 1. She registered to run for the seat in 2014 but quit the race after her son became ill.

"It's been something that I've wanted to do," she said. "I believe that I have the skills, the knowledge and the ability to serve."

Thomas, 70, holds a doctorate from FAMU in education leadership. She has worked at various levels of education including public schools and the Department of Education. She's lived on the northeast side of town for more than 30 years.

"I've always wanted to make a contribution as a School Board member and now is a good time to do it," she said. "I think it's time for change. I'm hoping that the voters in this area of Tallahassee feel that way as well."

Thomas is running against School Board member Striplin, a former math teacher and CEO of Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Big Bend, and Ricky Bell, longtime Leon Schools administrator and former coach and teacher.

School Board members Maggie Lewis-Butler and Georgia "Joy" Bowen have filed to run for re-election to Seats 3 and 5, respectively. Marcus Nicolas, a Tallahassee Community College administrator and former Godby High School teacher, has filed to run against Bowen.

TCC trustees visit Washington



Special to the Times
Tallahassee Community College trustees and president recently traveled to Washington to participate in the National Legislative Summit hosted by the Association of Community College Trustees. While in Washington, they also met with two congressional delegations, Congressmen Neal Dunn and Al Lawson and Senator Bill Nelson to advocate for increasing funding for financial aid for students and update them on college programs. In addition, the trustees attended the National Legislative Summit, and heard from the following presenters: R. Alexander Acosta, U.S. Secretary of Labor; Jake Tapper, CNN Anchor and Chief Washington Correspondent; Senator Tim Kaine; Senator Lamar Alexander; Senator Chuck Grassley; Amy Walter, national editor of the Cook Political Report and former political director for ABC News. TCC Trustees meet with U.S. Rep. Al Lawson while in Washington. Pictured, from left, are: Karen Moore, Leon; Congressman Al Lawson; Eugene Lamb, Gadsden; Randy Pople, Gadsden; and, Kevin Vaughn, Leon.

Digging it

Mining Emergency Response competition hones skills

JAMILLIA COLSON

GADSDEN COUNTY TIMES

The inaugural Surface Mining Emergency Response competition brought out-of-state first-responders to Gadsden County. This weeklong training exercise tested the lifesaving abilities of nine Surface mining rescue teams from across the country.

The Florida Public Safety Institute (FPSI) teamed up with the Mine Safety and Health Association (MSHA) to welcome first-responders from various mining communities. The nine teams who registered for this event traveled from Nevada, Tennessee, Alabama and Florida. Other partnering mining associations and grant recipients from Kentucky and Texas assisted in the Feb. 26 to March 1 event.

"With MSHA's blessing we're having the Inaugural competition here," Kim Allen, the director of the Florida Public Safety Institute said.

"The Florida Public Safety Institute has been lucky enough to have MSHA place the safety and training mining grant with Tallahassee Community College. Florida offered, because we have the footprint here at the Florida Public Safety Institute, to host real-life situations," Allen said.

Mining is booming business in Florida, and the Sunshine State has more than 1,300 mining locations and containing the largest known deposits of phosphate in the United States.

"The Panhandle has a lot of small sand and gravel operations. All of your concrete and asphalt has to come from a mine somewhere," said Sam Pierce, Southeast District Manager for the Mine Safety and Health Administration.

However, mining of any kind is extremely dangerous and the safety of the miners who risk their lives excavating Florida's mineral-rich land is a serious matter for MSHA, and it's necessary to test the first-responders' skills in the event of an accident on a mine site.

"By having a trained team on site, if you have a mine emergency then you have people there that can get to them very quickly. That is what this training is about — helping them learn and helping them be prepared in the event of an emergency," said Pierce. "Some of the mines

are located remotely, and it may take several minutes for 911 to even get there. So, they are trained and ready to respond to any emergency that might occur to get the miners immediate help."

These field exercises were designed keep first-responders sharp and ready in case of any crisis, which is why the surface mining first responder's education goes far beyond first aid and CPR (cardiopulmonary resuscitation). The teams were drilled and tested on their proficiency and knowledge of rope rescue, water safety and survival training as well as dealing with traumatic incidents.

"In 2017, there were 28 deaths in the mining community. One in particular in Florida and most of the Florida accidents and/or deaths are water-related, so MSHA asked us to set up a water training and a water scenario," said Allen.

TCC to offer GED prep at Sheriff's Office Annex

HAVANA HERALD (SHORT TAKES)

Beginning March 26, Tallahassee Community College will offer GED® Prep classes Monday through Thursday at the Gadsden County Sheriff's Office Annex, located at 18290 Blue Star Highway in Quincy.

Students may take classes from 2 to 4 p.m. or from 6 to 8 p.m.

The Spring 2018 cohort of this open-enrollment class is scheduled to run from March 26 through June 29.

The initial test fee of \$25 has been waived for students enrolling in these classes.

Tuition is \$30 per semester and scholarships are available.

For information on financial aid opportunities or other details, contact TCC's Workforce Development Division at (850) 201-8760 or workforce@tcc.fl.edu.

TCC to host GED workshop

WAKULLA NEWS

The TCC Wakulla Center is hosting a GED Information Session on March 29 at 5:30 p.m.

This event is free to the community and is geared towards parents, potential students, employers and community leaders. We will discuss what is the GED, the process to pass the GED test, and the resources that TCC has to offer individuals to pass the GED and beyond.

TCC hopes the session will assist with eliminating the stigma of the GED.

TCC Gadsden to host safety series

HAVANA HERALD (SHORT TAKES)

The Tallahassee Community College Gadsden Center will offer a new series of monthly safety trainings targeted to Gadsden County business owners, their employees and community members.

All sessions are free and open to the public.

The series kicks off with a human trafficking training course on Friday, March 31, from 1 to 3 p.m.

The training will be provided by Mindy Conney, senior intelligence analyst for Florida Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles.

Other upcoming sessions include:

Friday, April 27, 1 – 3 p.m.: Domestic Violence Training provided by Bobby Smith, Refuge House community counselor;

Friday, May 25, 1 – 3 p.m.: Elderly Abuse Training provided by Allison Bryant, Florida Department of Elder Affairs statewide elder abuse prevention coordinator, and the Area Agency on Aging for North Florida;

Friday, June 29, 1 – 3 p.m.: Civilian Response to Active Shooter Event Training provided by G. W. Lupton, TCC emergency services coordinator;

Friday, July 27, 1 – 3 p.m.: Hurricane Preparation Training provided by G. W. Lupton;

Saturday, August 25, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.: Community Safety Awareness Day, featuring Quincy Police Chief Glenn Sapp, community partners, parenting classes and more.

The center is located at 223 Pat Thomas Parkway in Quincy.

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

Tallahassee Community College ready for national tournament

ALISON POSEY
WTXL

The journey to a National Championship begins on Tuesday for the Tallahassee Community College women. The ladies received an at-large bid to this year's Tournament, which is their second straight appearance.

Last year, the Lady Eagles were one and done, this time around, they are looking to go in and make a little noise, and they feel more confident heading in.

"One thing we learned is that we have to be more consistent," said head coach Franqua "Q" Bedell. "You have to do things a little bit more detailed. You have to be a little bit more focused. I felt like we played a great game when we were there, but it was just one half. You have to put two halves together to play at that level to move on and advance."

Game one for Tallahassee is set for Tuesday, 1:00 tip-off against Western Nebraska.

Why banning free speech zones is just the tip of the iceberg

LAUREN COOLEY
WASHINGTON EXAMINER

Florida Gov. Rick Scott signed the Excellence in Higher Education Act on Sunday, making Florida the ninth state to ban public colleges and universities from relegating student expression to free speech zones.

This act has drawn high praise from students and freedom-focused organizations across the state. However, the elimination of free speech zones only eliminates one of several First Amendment restrictions plaguing college campuses around the country.

As I wrote previously, the Excellence in Higher Education Act takes major steps to better the state of free speech in Florida's institutions of higher education, but the law should not be seen as the final solution. Florida students still face significant administrative biases, including overburdensome requirements for groups to officially exist on campus, disproportionate funding of campus groups, and the distinct limiting of access to speakers and ideas that are deemed "too controversial" under the guise of safety.

In my talking with college students across the country, it has become clear that speech, advocacy, and assembly is often blocked by administrators on the basis of content through the guise of policy, procedure, and safety.

Many students in Florida – the same ones celebrating the passing of the Excellence in Higher Education Act – have experienced additional discrimination that won't be corrected by the ban of free speech zones.

The College Republicans chapter at Florida International University was put on hold for an entire semester during the 2016 election because the group could not find a right-leaning professor willing to sponsor them. Due to red-tape policy, the club could not exist without a sponsor. Liberal professors outnumber conservative professors nearly 12 to 1, making the task to find a faculty adviser nearly impossible.

"[T]he political science department is dominated by liberal left-leaning professors who are very vocal about their beliefs which became an issue when looking for an adviser," Juan Porras, a College Republican at Florida International University, told Red Alert Politics.

College Republican chapters at University of West Florida and Northwest Florida State College have faced similar issues.

One student, who requested not to be named, said they resorted to "driving around teacher lots and leaving random notes on cars if they had anything remotely right leaning on them" in order to find a new adviser. This process took longer than a month.

Conservative students at the University of Florida have experienced the limiting of their speech rights via discriminatory funding policies.

"Our Student Government is claiming we [Young Americans for Freedom] aren't eligible to receive a high funding status because of a rule that is not in our finance codes. They have switched up the reason twice now and continue to use vague interpretations of rules to prevent us from receiving funds," Daniel Weldon, chairman of the University of Florida Young Americans for Freedom, told Red Alert Politics. "Even worse, we were told that we couldn't apply for more than \$5,000 when Pride student union, an organization with less members than our, received over \$70,000 this past year."

Weldon believes that a way to discourage this mistreatment of funds is through additional legislation, like the original text in the "Campus Free Expression Act," which would have required student governments to explain funding decisions.

"I know that it would have helped us. Our student government has a major corruption problem and it would make it easier to prove this discrimination that my chapter faces," Weldon said.

Students also face hostile aggression for their ideas. The Turning Point USA chapter at Tallahassee Community College had its registered student organization status revoked after they held a "Socialism Slaughters" event.

"The event was shut down due to student email complaints," Genesis Sanchez, the Turning Point USA chapter leader, told Red Alert Politics. In the following days the club was "kicked off campus."

Why banning free speech zones is just the tip of the iceberg....

continued

University of Florida student Anthony Leonardi told Red Alert Politics that his conservative group has had both students and a faculty member rip down posters from his club's pro-life campaign.

"University employees at my school have chosen to physically assault students because they don't agree with a position being made ... Despite the fact we were granted tabling abilities by the university, stayed within our limited speech zones, and maintained an environment conducive to free speech ... all for holding up a pro-life poster," Leonardi said. "This legislation is just a start."

Dr. Marshall DeRosa, a professor of political science at Florida Atlantic University, calls the legislation "a step in the right direction," but says "it should not be mistaken as a panacea for universities to be transformed into marketplaces of ideas."

He cites the Left's "tight grip on hiring, tenure, and promotion of faculty" as "the source of the problem, especially in the Humanities and Social Sciences."

"If universities are to be transformed into marketplaces of ideas, force-feeding students left-wing classroom gruel must give way to a healthy diet of ideas across the political spectrum," DeRosa told Red Alert Politics.

Needless to say, campus free speech is under attack from many directions.

Lawmakers like Florida Reps. Chuck Clemons, Sr., Bob Rommel, and John Cortes, and Florida Sen. Dennis Baxley should be praised for taking an important first step in realigning colleges with their mission to foster well-rounded students capable of encountering and discussing multiple viewpoints. On the other hand, it is time for these same lawmakers to take additional steps to protect free speech, expression, and association on campuses – a place where those things are not only rights, but necessary tools of academia.

#TCCBasketball: Eagles escape Western Nebraska, advance in Lubbock

WTXL

It wasn't pretty but style points aren't what's important in March. "Survive and advance" is the mantra this time of year and that's exactly what Tallahassee Community College did on Tuesday in a 97-85 win over Western Nebraska Community College in the opening round at the NJCAA Division I Women's Basketball Championship.

With the win, Tallahassee (25-6), seeded 11th in the tournament moves into the second round, where it will face sixth-seeded Wabash Valley (Ill.) College at 8 p.m. eastern on Wednesday.

For Western Nebraska, the tournament's No. 22 seed, its season ends at 29-5.

Tallahassee tied a postseason school record with 97 points despite a shooting display that could've easily cut short its second straight trip to Lubbock – 37-of-80 from the floor (just 15-of-41 in the first half), 1-of-11 three-pointers and 22-of-38 from the free throw line.

The shooting woes left the Eagles in a dogfight and facing a 66-65 deficit entering the final quarter. But as ugly as the first three quarters may have been, the fourth quarter was a work of art for Tallahassee.

The Eagles hit 13-of-20 shot attempts in the fourth en route to a 32-19 advantage in the scoring column. Eleven points were the result of forcing six turnovers in the final ten minutes, and Tallahassee limited Western Nebraska to just 6-of-16 shooting.

"They (Western Nebraska) did a lot of things in the beginning to stifle us but I felt like if we kept steady on what we're capable of doing, we would persevere," said Tallahassee head coach Franqua "Q" Bedell. "And we finally started getting some rebounds and making some free throws."

Bedell credited the Cougars' ability to force Tallahassee to settle for jump shots, particularly through the first half, which ended in a 41-41 tie.

Tallahassee appeared poised to seize control in the third quarter. A 16-2 run, capped by a putback from Stella Logbognon, gave the Eagles a 59-49 lead at the 4:25 mark. Just 2:27 later, however, Anastacia Johnson's lay-up off a turnover by Dawn Gipson completed a 14-0 run to put Western Nebraska back in front 63-59.

In the fourth, after Western Nebraska tied the game with a pair of free throws, Nakiah Black's basket put Tallahassee in front for good, 71-69, at the 8:16 mark and sparked a quick 7-0 run.

The Cougars were still within striking distance, trailing by only six, 85-79, with 4:14 remaining but eight unanswered points all but put the game away for Tallahassee, who claimed its first victory in the national tournament since 2001.

Juliunn Redmond capped the run with a basket with 2:12 left to give Tallahassee its largest lead of the game, 93-79.

She finished with 14 points, one of four players in double-figures for the Eagles.

Black led the team with 31, including six in the final 36 seconds of the first quarter to erase a five-point deficit and give Tallahassee a 19-18 lead.

With the jump shots not falling, Bedell preached the value of attacking the basket. The Eagles responded with a 60-36 scoring advantage in the paint, including 20 of their 32 fourth-quarter points.

No one player benefitted from that strategy more than Jamyra McChristine, who tied a career-high with 17 points and pulled down 12 rebounds – her first double-digit effort in either category since January 20.

"My mentality was to give Coach my all today and just keep going," said McChristine.

Gipson also scored 14, including eight on 4-for-4 shooting, during the crucial fourth quarter.

TCC to host 'Nevertheless She Persisted' event

MALCOLM HORNSBY
WTXL (SECOND CUP)

Tallahassee Community College will recognize outstanding women in our community during Women's History Month.

Tallahassee Community College holds an annual celebration during which 10 community women and five current TCC female students are recognized for their outstanding leadership skills as well as their service to the community.

The 2018 theme is "Nevertheless She Persisted: Honoring Women Who Fight All Forms of Discrimination."

It all kicks off Wednesday, March 21 at 5:30 p.m. at the Ghazvini Center for Healthcare Education, 1528 Surgeons Drive.

TCC celebrates 2018 Women's History Month

WTXL

In the final weeks of Women's History month, Tallahassee Community College hosted its annual celebration recognizing women who go above and beyond in the Capital City.

Ten Tallahassee women and five TCC students were honored for their leadership skills, accomplishments and ways they contribute to society.

The theme for this year's ceremony was "Nevertheless She Persisted: Honoring Women Who Fight All Forms of Discrimination."

Student news: Dance! event set at Somerset Vo-Tech High School

MYCENTRALJERSEY.COM

The Gifted and Talented Honors Dance Program at Somerset County Vocational & Technical High School in Bridgewater will present Dance!, a dance performance this weekend featuring student and faculty choreographers.

Dance performances will include student choreography by Eleanor Faherty of Basking Ridge, MaddyLee of Bridgewater, Marissa Miller of Warren, Jessica Paolillo of Hillsborough and Sophia Yankowski of Somerville.

"The performance celebrates dance and the diverse training that the students receive in the program," said SCVTHS Honors Dance Department Coordinator Sheila Buttermore. Buttermore, adding, "The Gifted and Talented Honors Dance Program focuses on training dancers for a BFA or BA program in a university."

Dance! will be presented in the Auditorium of Somerset County Vocational & Technical High School at 14 Vogt Drive in Bridgewater. Performances are scheduled for March 23 and 24 at 7:30 p.m. General admission to the performance is \$12 and students (with a valid school ID) are \$8.

Tallahassee Community College

The following Central Jersey residents at Tallahassee Community College in Tallahassee, Florida, were named to the fall dean's list: Alexander Gherardi of Basking Ridge and Cassidy Rose Hoose, Deja Joan Demaria of Scotch Plains. Students must achieve a grade-point average of 3.5.

(NOTE: Item truncated for reference to TCC. The Courier News is a print/digital newspaper servicing Central New Jersey.)

TCC offers scholarship info sessions for students with disabilities

HAVANA HERALD (SHORT TAKES)

Since the 2015-16 school year, Tallahassee Community College's Strategic Employment Placement Program has partnered with an employment advocacy group to offer free tuition for qualified students with disabilities.

The Able Trust Strategic Employment Program Scholarship, offered via a grant from The Able Trust, provides free tuition to qualified students with disabilities. Ten scholarships have been awarded in the scholarship's first three years, with average one-time award amounts ranging from \$700 to \$1,800.

In addition to tuition assistance, the Able Trust Strategic Employment Program Scholarship can be applied to course fees not normally covered by financial aid, as well as the costs of books, supplies and other expenses.

The program will offer monthly scholarship information sessions beginning on Wednesday, February 21. All current and incoming TCC students with disabilities are welcome to attend and apply whether they are pursuing an associate degree, a certificate program, GED® or ESOL studies, or workforce training.

Attendees will learn about the scholarship, eligibility criteria, and additional program opportunities and requirements. Interested individuals should pre-register for a session at www.TCCready4work.com. The full session schedule is listed on the site, as well as information on the scholarship, the application process and the SEP program.

The deadline for applications is August 31.

For information, contact the Strategic Employment Placement Program at (850) 201-9635 or SEP@tcc.fl.edu.

TCC to host part-time job fair on March 28

HAVANA HERALD (SHORT TAKES)

Tallahassee Community College will host its Spring Part-Time Job Fair on March 28 from 9 a.m. to noon in the TCC Student Union Ballroom.

The job fair will connect individuals searching for part-time jobs with area companies looking to fill open positions. In addition to TCC students, Florida State University and Florida A & M University students and all members of the community are invited to attend.

Jobseekers do not have to pre-register for this event. Business casual dress is required, and attendees should bring copies of their resume.

Free parking is available for all attendees.

For information and a list of employers, visit www.tccfuturelink.com/events or call (850) 201-9970.

New TCC policy on civility challenged over threats to free speech

BYRON DOBSON

TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT

Tallahassee Community College's Board of Trustees this week approved a new policy defining a culture of civility and mutual respect on campus.

But not everyone is buying in. Some say examples of what could constitute disrespectful or disruptive behavior oversteps the boundaries of free speech.

Those found in violation — from administrators to vendors — could face disciplinary action, up to getting fired.

The "Civility and Mutual Respect" policy is outlined in nearly four pages covering "a broad range of inappropriate, unacceptable behavior, from rude or obnoxious behavior on one end of the spectrum, to threats of violence and acts of violence on the other," the document reads.

It goes on to say, "this policy is not intended to deprive any person of his/her right to freedom of expression, but only to maintain, to the extent possible and reasonable, a safe, mutually respectful, harassment-free workplace and learning environment."

At Monday's meeting, the vote became an issue with two speakers who challenged wording in the policy, saying it was broad and could unfairly be left in the hands of the administration to determine what encompasses sarcasm, degrading or demeaning speech.

Martin Balinsky, a faculty member and vice president of United Faculty of Florida's TCC chapter, said portions of the policy attacks free speech.

"My objection is with the subjective language relating to such issues as perceived sarcasm, perceived arrogance, perceived disrespect, perceived degradation, and perceived intention to humiliate," Balinsky said, lifting from the policy's list of behaviors that could lead disciplinary action.

Balinsky said, "such onerous and chilling prohibitions based on subjective interpretation are in violation of the First Amendment of the United States Constitution."

He also told trustees the language could be perceived as a threat to the faculty union, which is currently negotiating its first contract with the college.

Tom Wazlavek, a UFF director representing faculty in contract negotiations, said trustees are setting themselves up for potential lawsuits challenging their intentions.

"This policy is overly broad," Wazlavek said. "It potentially violates the First Amendment. It leaves too much to interpretation.

"What is your definition of rude? Of profane? How do you define sarcasm? You are going to invite yourself to a lot of litigation," he told trustees.

TCC trustee Karen Moore, founder of Moore Communications Group, a Tallahassee public relations firm, was the only trustee to respond.

Moore said she pushed for the policy to create a culture of civility on campus that addresses how people are treated and what is expected in behaviors.

"It's not in any way intended to challenge your freedom of speech and integrity," she said.

Jim Crosland, a labor attorney with Bryant Miller Olive who represents trustees in union negotiations, said Monday's vote applied to everyone except faculty because it is still subject to negotiations. A similar, less-detailed article is being proposed as part of the contract.

"It's not violating anybody's First Amendment rights," he said. "It's trying to put in a labor agreement that people should be civil."

TCC President Jim Murdaugh said later the policy was drafted at Moore's suggestion because the college didn't have one.

He said civility, along with protection of freedom of speech, is being addressed by colleges across the country.

"There is a tremendous national dialogue on how we talk to each other," Murdaugh said. "Why would anyone oppose a policy that says we should communicate with each other in a civil, respectful manner?"

Neither Florida State or Florida A&M University has specific policies on civility.

New TCC policy on civility challenged over threats to free speech

continued

Murdaugh said wording was reviewed by legal counsel and "it is a statement by the board on their intent – it is a goal."

Addressing comments about vagueness, Murdaugh said there are several terms in law, such as "harassment", that can be considered vague.

"Nobody is going to be fired for sarcasm," he said.

At the same time, Murdaugh said, he's had faculty come to his office "in tears" over treatment by another faculty member.

Barbara Wills, TCC's chief business officer and vice president for administrative services, said there have been cases of students being disrespectful to employees, and "some other examples of employees being disrespectful to each other."

Murdaugh said he doesn't understand the backlash.

"Their opposition is fascinating to me," he said. "If they suggest we haven't had faculty being rude to another faculty, that would be a lie."

TCC women rally, advance in JUCO national tourney

TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT

Tallahassee Community College rallied from a 10-point deficit in the third quarter to defeat Wabash Valley (Ill.) College in second round action on Wednesday at the NJCAA Division I Women's Basketball Championship in Lubbock, Texas.

The win moves Tallahassee (26-6) into Thursday's 8 p.m. quarterfinal where it will face a familiar foe – Panhandle Conference rival Northwest Florida State College.

Thursday will mark the fifth meeting of the season between the Eagles and Raiders, who have split the first four games.

Like Tuesday's opening round win over Western Nebraska Community College, Tallahassee needed a big fourth quarter to advance past the sixth-seeded Warriors. Behind Japonica James' 10 points, the Eagles outscored Wabash Valley, 25-14, in the final quarter to erase a 55-50 deficit.

Wabash Valley scored the first basket of the fourth to go back up by seven (57-50) but a 10-2 run, capped by James' layup, gave Tallahassee a 60-59 lead with 6:13 left.

Wabash Valley never led again but did force three ties, including one at 69-all with 43 seconds remaining. On the Eagles' ensuing possession, Dawn Gipson snagged a missed shot and found Stella Logbognon in the paint for the go-ahead basket with 20 seconds left.

Following a timeout, the Warriors advanced the ball into the frontcourt with a chance to tie or take the lead. Neither option materialized, however, as Nakiah Black stole the inbounds pass and outran the defense for layup with 14 seconds remaining. Tallahassee forced another turnover in the backcourt, the Warriors' 25th of the game, to effectively seal the comeback.

Black hit two free throws with .3 remaining and finished with 11 points.

James had 19 points overall and narrowly missed a double-double with nine rebounds.

Logbognon was also on the cusp of a double-double, recording nine points and 11 rebounds.

Juliunn Redmond led Tallahassee with 24 points.

Tallahassee won despite another rough night shooting-wise. The Eagles were just 31-of-85 from the floor (36.5 percent), 4-of-19 from distance (21.1 percent) and 9-of-24 (37.5 percent) from the free throw line.

Tallahassee held Wabash Valley 24 points below its NJCAA-best 93.8 points per game.

Black leads TCC into national semifinals

TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT

Tallahassee Community College's run at the NJCAA Division I Women's Basketball Championship continued on Thursday with a 55-52 win over Panhandle Conference rival Northwest Florida State College in the quarterfinal round.

In what amounted to the rubber match of the teams' five-game season series, the Eagles improved to 27-6 with the win while Northwest Florida State's season ends at 24-7, its last three losses all at the hands of a Tallahassee squad who is now just two wins away from a national championship.

Tallahassee advances to Friday's national semifinal against another conference rival – two-time defending national champion Gulf Coast State College at 8 p.m.

The winner will play for the national championship on Saturday evening against either Shelton (Ala.) State Community College or Trinity Valley (Texas) Community College.

With very little unknowns remaining on either side, Thursday's quarterfinal quickly developed into a defensive slugfest.

Both teams shot 3-for-11 from the floor and combined for 13 turnovers in the first quarter (seven by Tallahassee), which equaled the number of points scored in the first ten minutes when Northwest Florida State led, 7-6.

The Raiders warmed up in the second quarter, hitting 6-of-13 from the floor to open up as much as a nine-point lead, 19-10, at the 6:24 mark.

Northwest Florida State's always stout defense held Tallahassee to just 35.2 percent shooting (19-of-54) for the game, but the Eagles hit 11-of-23 in the second half, including 5-of-8 three-pointers to erase a 27-20 halftime deficit.

Nakiah Black did most of the damage for Tallahassee. She knocked down four three-pointers, including three as part of a game-changing 21-4 run during a 6:41 stretch to close the third quarter and open the fourth.

Her third triple of the half gave Tallahassee a 45-36 lead with 8:43 left in the game.

The Raiders eventually pulled within two on Trinity Baptiste's three-point play with 2:27 left then neither side scored again until Black connected inside the final minute.

Originally counted a two-pointer, an official review changed Black's final basket to a three. She added two free throws with 32 seconds left to give the Eagles a 54-47 lead.

As it turned out, the game was still far from over.

Angela Jernigan's three-pointer cut Tallahassee's lead to four. Two turnovers erased potential free throw opportunities for the Eagles and when Juliunn Redmond finally got a turn at the charity stripe, she only hit one of two.

Leandra Echi hit a pair of free throws with three seconds left to cut the Eagles' lead to 55-52. After Redmond missed both free throws on the ensuing possession, Echi fired a potential game-tying three-pointer as she crossed half court but it rimmed out at the buzzer.

Tallahassee virtually matched the Raiders defensively, limiting Northwest Florida State to just 17-of-48 shooting (35.4 percent) and 3-of-13 as part of a nine-point third quarter – the 25th time the Eagles have held an opponent to single digits in a quarter this season.

Black finished with a game-high 20 points.

#TCCBasketball: Eagles beat Gulf Coast State to punch ticket to title game

WTXL

Tallahassee Community College will play for the women's basketball national championship on Saturday evening in Lubbock, Texas.

The 11th-seed Eagles advanced to the championship final with a 78-68 victory over two-time defending national champion and No. 2 seed Gulf Coast State College in Friday's semifinals of the NJCAA Division I Women's Basketball Championship.

This marks the first championship game appearance in school history for the Eagles.

Tallahassee will play eight-time national champion Trinity Valley (Texas) Community College at 8 p.m. eastern.

Japonica James scored 25 points to lead Tallahassee on Friday.

(NOTE: Item also appeared on page 4D of the Tallahassee Democrat on Saturday, March 24, 2018 under the headline "TCC women to play for national championship.")

TCC women national champs

Eagles win NJCAA Division I crown

JIM HENRY

TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT

The Tallahassee Community College women's basketball team stayed true to its mantra this season.

"Lubbock or Leave it Alone."

The Eagles owned Lubbock, winning the program's first national championship with an impressive 69-51 win over eight-time national champion Trinity Valley Community College Saturday night in Lubbock, Texas.

No. 11 seed TCC (29-6), which earned an at-large bid in the 24-team, single elimination tournament that spanned six days, won five consecutive games at the NJCAA Division I Women's Basketball Championship.

Making their first appearance in the title game, the Eagles proved the moment wasn't too big for them at Rip Griffin Center on the campus of Lubbock Christian University.

The Eagles limited Trinity Valley to 32 percent shooting from the field (20 of 63), outrebounded it 48-38 and saw their bench contribute 35 points.

"It's surreal, something we talked about and it's happening," Tallahassee head coach Franqua Bedell said.

"Our defense was absolutely amazing. We took them out of what they wanted to do. I feel like our defense really, really stepped up."

The No. 20 Cards (31-6), meanwhile, were making their 14th NJCAA championship game and seventh in the last eight years.

Tied at 32 at the half, TCC built a double-digit advantage at 55-43 after three quarters and carried that momentum to the school's second national title overall (softball 1994).

Nakiah Black led the Eagles with 13 points, all in the second half due to early foul trouble.

Jamyra McChristine added 12 points, 11 in the first half.

Japonica James had 10 points and eight rebounds.

TCC earned an at-large bid into the national tourney on the strength of its 24-6 record, a wire-to-wire run inside the NJCAA top 10 and its second-place finish in the Panhandle Conference.

The conference was represented by three of its five teams, with the Eagles beating Northwest Florida State College and Gulf Coast State College en route to the title game.

"Lubbock or Leave It Alone has been our mantra all season," Bedell said heading into the tourney.

TCC led for 34:08 of the game and outscored Trinity Valley 37-19 over the final two quarters.

The Eagles shot 39 percent from the field (24 of 61) and made 18 of 27 free throws.

"We were on a mission and we wanted to prove that we had a great team and we had great players and we did that tonight," Bedell said.

#TCCBasketball wins women's national championship

WTXL

Tallahassee Community College defeated Trinity Valley (Texas) Community College, 69-51, on Saturday evening to win the NJCAA Division I Women's Basketball National Championship.

It's the Eagles' first women's basketball national championship and the school's first national title in any sport since softball won the NJCAA crown in 1994.

With the game tied at 32 at the half, Tallahassee took control in the third quarter, outscoring the Cardinals, 23-11, for a 55-43 lead entering the fourth. The Eagles gradually pulled away in the final ten minutes, leading by as many as 20 inside the final minute.

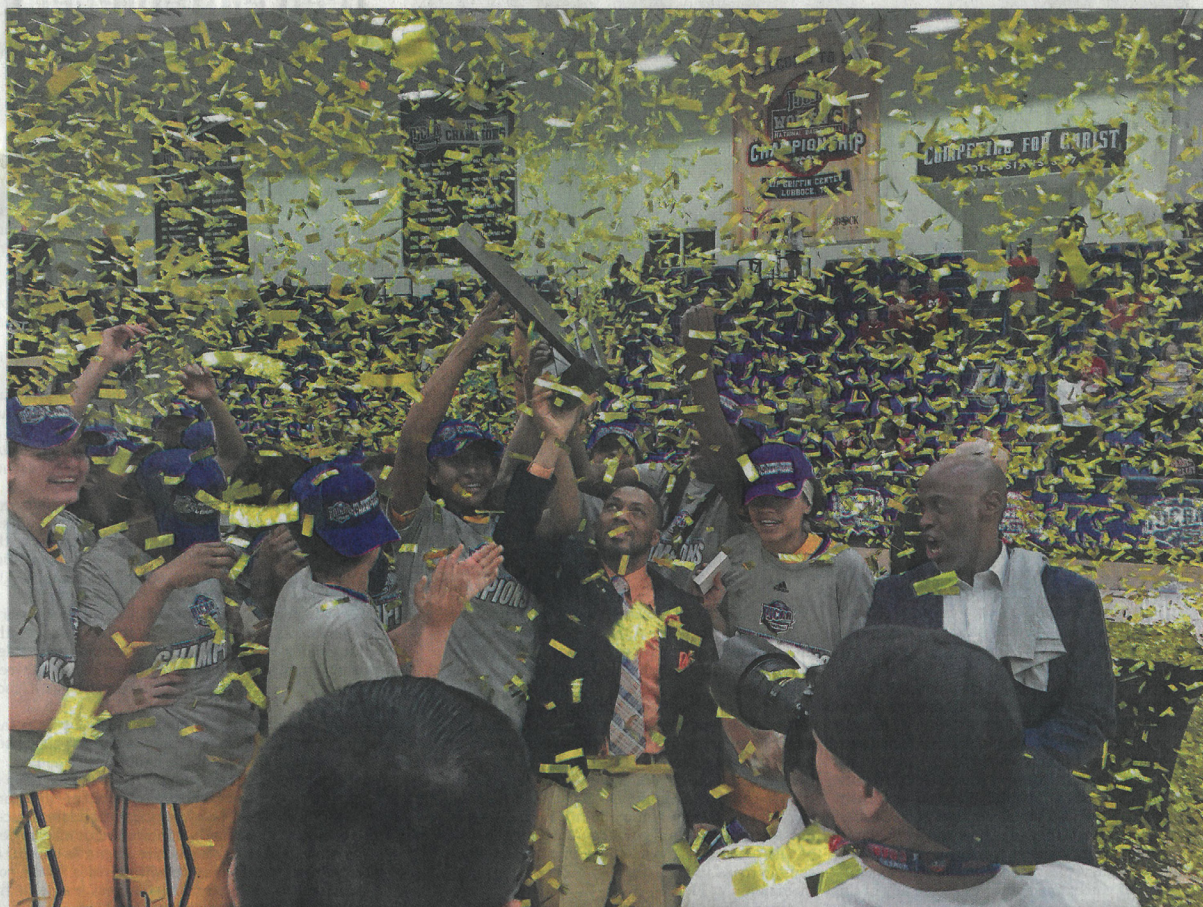
Nakiah Black scored 13 points to lead Tallahassee. Jamyra McChristine had 12 and Japonica James, 10. All three players were named to the All-Tournament Team.

Tallahassee (29-6) ends the season with a school-record 29 wins.

TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT

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GRIT AND GREATNESS

TCC women's basketball team shows perseverance in national title run

Jim Henry Tallahassee Democrat | USA TODAY NETWORK - FLORIDA

The Tallahassee Community College women's basketball team treated its week-long stay in Texas as a business trip. The 1,176-mile bus ride home will give the Eagles the opportunity to relax and celebrate their historic achievement.

"It's definitely very surreal. From where we came from earlier this year, it's a blessing," sophomore Nakiah Black said.

"We all have grit and I think we used that and pulled together as a team. It will make for an amazing trip home."

TCC defeated Trinity Valley (Texas) Community College, 69-51, on Saturday evening to win the NJCAA Division I Women's Basketball National Championship.

See NATIONAL TITLE, Page 6A



PHOTOS BY ROB CHANEY/TCC ATHLETICS

ABOVE: The TCC women's basketball team celebrates its national title Saturday night in Lubbock, Texas.

LEFT: TCC's Jamyra McChristine makes a confetti angel following Saturday's national title victory.

Grit and greatness

TCC women's basketball team shows perseverance in national title run

JIM HENRY

TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT

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"We all have grit and I think we used that and pulled together as a team. It will make for an amazing trip home."

TCC defeated Trinity Valley (Texas) Community College, 69-51, on Saturday evening to win the NJCAA Division I Women's Basketball National Championship.

It's the Eagles' first women's basketball national championship and the school's first national title in any sport since softball won the NJCAA crown in 1994.

TCC, which earned an at-large berth into the 24-team, single-elimination national tournament in Lubbock, Texas, won five consecutive games in as many days to win the title.

To limit distractions, players surrendered their cell phones to head coach Franqua Bedell upon their arrival. They practiced daily at a local high school and focused on rest and recovery at night.

The Eagles also beat fellow Panhandle Conference rivals Northwest Florida State College and Gulf Coast State College -- the teams combined to play nine times this season -- en route to the championship game against a program that boasted eight national titles.

"We faced a lot of adversity this season so we weren't really nervous about anything," said sophomore Japonica James, who has signed with Troy. "It was just a mind thing. We picked up the energy and did whatever it takes to win."

Tied at 32 at the half, TCC -- relying on aggressive defense and a deep bench -- gradually pulled away and led by as many as 20 points inside the final minute.

The Eagles limited Trinity Valley to 32 percent shooting from the field (20 of 63), out-rebounded it 48-38 and saw their bench contribute 35 points.

Black scored 13 points to lead Tallahassee. Jamyra McChristine had 12 and James 10. All three players were named to the All-Tournament Team.

The Eagles outscored their tourney opponents by an average of 74.8 to 65.

Bedell, in his fifth season at TCC, challenged his team to play with a purpose.

Season-long themes included "Lubbock or Leave it Alone" and "LOVE," which represented Leaving everything on the court, opportunity, value and expecting to win. "I don't know if I could script it any better," Bedell said Sunday morning.

"It was a beautiful thing to experience and feel. We kept telling our kids to play for more than just yourself. I feel like these young ladies were doing much more than just playing basketball. It worked for us this year.

"What they've done in the five days, it was absolutely amazing to watch them compete and play. ... I couldn't be more proud of a group of young ladies as I am this group."

TCC's journey started a year ago this month in the same venue -- Rip Griffin Center on the campus of Lubbock Christian University.

The Eagles, making their first national tourney appearance since 2001, when they finished third, rallied from a 20point deficit and led Shelton (Ala.) State Community College by five with 1:06 left in their opening game.

However, TCC squandered its advantage and lost 79-78.

After opening this season 15-0, the Eagles struggled early in Panhandle Conference play. They dropped three of four games and one of their top players was dismissed from the team last month.

TCC also had to win its final three conference games to qualify for the state tournament and waited to hear its name selected for the national tournament.

Yet the players' faith in Bedell's message and in each other never wavered.

Grit and greatness....

continued

"We bought into what coach was saying," Black explained.

"We didn't always do the right thing, but I feel like we did it more often than not. We trusted in each other and coach told us to enjoy the moment. I think every lady who stepped on the floor gave us something."

James, the program's all-time leading scorer, admitted the final few minutes of Saturday's title game were emotional.

When the final buzzer sounded, the team was blanketed in gold confetti. Bedell stood on a ladder and cut down the net, the team posed for a photo with their trophy and enjoyed a late-night meal at a local Applebee's restaurant.

TCC (29-6) finished with a schoolrecord 29 wins, going 10-1 down the stretch. The Eagles are scheduled to arrive home Monday around noon -- they are splitting the 18-hour drive into two days. They have their national title trophy, cell phones and memories that will last a lifetime.

"We were focused on the prize," James said.

"We weren't worried about anything except basketball."

TCC forensics team successfully defends state speech and debate championship titles

TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT (CAMPUS NOTES)

For the 11th time in 12 seasons, the TCC forensics team won the Florida College System Activities Association state speech and debate championship. TCC competitors also won individual state championships in 10 of 11 speech event categories.

TCC competitors Susan Liss, Jesselym Gonzalez, Samira Taylor and Karis De Gannes swept the top four spots in pentathlon sweepstakes. Each of the pentathlon winners, along with Gerain Arias, captured at least one individual state championship. De Gannes also received the Jennifer Pickman Award for the top novice competitor.

TCC forensics also retained its Florida Intercollegiate Forensics Association state championship in individual events for the second consecutive year. Liss, Taylor and Gonzalez finished second, third and fourth respectively in pentathlon at the FIFA Championship, while Arias, De Gannes, Gonzalez and Liss all earned at least one individual state championship. Liss also qualified for the 2018 Interstate Oratorical Association national tournament with her second-place finish in Persuasive Speaking.

The team was runner-up in combined debate and individual events sweepstakes to the University of Central Florida, a program that has welcomed several TCC alumni in recent years.

Additional students who contributed to these outstanding results include Sydney Lyght, Charlie Metzger, Paige Palmer, Tatyana Penn and Ricardo Zamarripa.

TCC needs a course in free speech and the First Amendment

JIM GARRITY

TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT (YOUR TURN)

I doubt Tallahassee Community College thought about calling me before adopting its new anti-free speech policy, which it mislabels as the Civility and Mutual Respect code. I am an employee- rights lawyer. I sue employers who discriminate, harass or retaliate against their employees. So I'm certainly no friend of employers.

But had TCC called, I would have gladly given their administrators a free seminar on its employees' First Amendment rights, which its new policy clearly violates. And just as bad, its ambiguous, subjective wording will be weaponized as a tool of discrimination and harassment.

TCC's policy muzzling its employees' freespeech rights was adopted, presumably by coincidence, almost 50 years to the day that the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that public employees have a constitutional right to free speech in the workplace (Google Pickering v. Board of Education). The rights extend to all public-sector employees but have special value in academia, the birthplace of ideas.

Colleges and universities have amazing demographic diversity. You'll find a blend of nationalities, races, religions and ages you can't find elsewhere. This blend is the magic that collectively sharpens students' thinking. But the magic only happens when public employees are free to think, talk and argue their perspectives — freedom guaranteed by the Constitution.

The policy's ambiguity invites constitutional abuse. Who at TCC gets to define "disrespectful?" Who gets to decide the "apparent intent" of a speaker's tone? Who decides whether a comment was "reasonably perceived" by a listener as upsetting, or as involving "raised voices?" And who decides when legitimate passionate expressions will lead to the loss of a career?

Passion in speech isn't illegal anywhere, although this Civility and Mutual Respect policy comes close. With this policy, free speech will be chilled because any employee is in jeopardy if any other employee merely claims offense at the speaker's ideas, tone, words or gestures.

And because its employee population is so diverse, the policy is a threat to all. I've represented many teachers and professors, some from countries such as Nigeria, China, Russia, and Iran. In some cultures, notions of personal space are defined in inches — something that might falsely be deemed hostile.

Some cultures use conversational tones and gestures that likewise might be considered offensive — or malicious) — by the uninformed. How will TCC distinguish the cultural from the disrespectful? Who there possesses such wisdom?

Finally, policies like this invite discriminatory abuse because they depend on subjective "eye of the beholder" analysis. The very things the policy targets — tone, gesture, choice of words — are often cultural attributes of one's nationality, race or ethnicity. Thus this policy is more likely to be invoked against someone whose upbringing is different from the accuser. And it will be far more difficult for an accused to refute subjective accusations of intent than it would be to dispute attendance violations, for example.

The policy is more than just a terrible idea. It is unlawful. It needs to be rescinded.

'He genuinely cared'

TCC student veteran wins a national contest for essay on his professor

TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT

A Tallahassee Community College student and U.S. Army veteran is one of three winners of an essay contest sponsored by the National Institute for Staff and Organizational Development.

Troy Presley, 27, was one of more than 200 students nationwide to submit entries to the Scott Wright Student Essay Contest, which asks students to describe how a faculty or staff member helped them succeed in college. His essay was one of only three selected for the top prize.

Presley wrote about Forster Agama, TCC associate professor of English, whose class he was enrolled in during his first semester at TCC in the fall of 2017.

"He genuinely cared about not only the student but the person themselves," said Presley. "I felt like he deserved some recognition. Even if I didn't win, just to let people know that he cared."

In his essay, Presley talks about the anxiety he experienced as he transitioned from life as a soldier to his new identity as a college student and how Agama supported him: I can't overstate how nervous I was to walk into that classroom last fall. My fear was multiplied by the fact that this was an English class, and I'd never really been one for writing. There were so many ways this class could've broken me, but because of Dr. Agama, I felt welcomed, appreciated, and encouraged to rise to the challenge of a new mission. On the first day of class, Dr. Agama recognized me for my service in the Army and made me feel welcomed. He encouraged me to believe that I really was capable of achieving my goal of earning my degree.

Presley is a graduate of Pace High School in Santa Rosa County. He tried college directly out of high school, but soon realized it was not right for him at that time. Instead, Presley joined the Army, where he served for six years as a drone operator. He was stationed in Fort Riley, Kansas, and deployed to Kuwait and Iraq in 2015-16.

When Presley's tour of service ended in February 2017, he and wife Michelle took a three-month road trip through the American West. Afterward, Michelle was set to begin a master's program at Florida State University. FSU was Troy Presley's goal as well, but he chose to attend TCC first, anticipating that smaller classes and more direct contact with professors would make the transition easier for him.

Presley, who is part of the TCC2FSU Program, plans to graduate from TCC in Spring 2019 and then transfer to the Florida A & M University-Florida State University College of Engineering to study electrical engineering.

"I want to change the planet. Basically, I want to go into solar energy...I want to do something with sustainable energy, and electrical engineering, I feel, is the best way to do that. I'd like to make the world a better place."

Agama said he was not surprised when he learned Presley was one of the contest winners.

"Mr. Presley was one of the most astute students I've had the pleasure of meeting at TCC. His viewpoints on issues discussed in class were both enlightening and invigorating, given his experience in the U.S. Army and knowledge of current affairs. I'm truly humbled and highly honored for being a part of his success story here at TCC and beyond."

As part of the contest, Presley and Agama will each receive a \$1,000 prize. They will also receive complimentary registration, up to three nights lodging and airfare so they can attend NISOD's 2018 International Conference on Teaching and Leadership Excellence May 26-29, in Austin, Texas.

Student and professor will be recognized during the Excellence Awards Dinner and Celebration held during the conference, and Presley will be invited to read his winning essay from the stage. He is the first TCC student to win the contest.

For information, contact Carmy Greenwood at greenwoc@tcc.fl.edu or 850-201-8470.

TCC celebrates Women's History Month honorees

TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT

Tallahassee Community College honored 10 community members and five TCC students last night at its annual Women's History Month program. Many of the honorees were joined by family and friends at the celebration held at TCC's Ghazvini Center for Healthcare Education.

The featured speaker was Suzanne Harrison, professor of family medicine and director of clinical programs at Florida State University College of Medicine. She developed a free clinic at Refuge House in 2003, where she provided weekly care for survivors of domestic violence and human trafficking until 2013. She has helped provide medical care to underserved patients at rural county health departments since 2003 and often volunteers her time at Neighborhood Medical Center. She also serves on the Leon County Domestic Violence Fatality Review Team. Harrison is the national president of the American Medical Women's Association and the founding chair of AMWA's Physicians Against the Trafficking of Humans.

The evening ended with an oral interpretation of Maya Angelou's classic poem "Phenomenal Woman," presented by Samira Taylor, Tatyana Penn and Karis De Gannes, members of the TCC forensics team. The following community members were honored: Karinda Barrett is the associate vice chancellor for academic and student affairs with the Division of Florida Colleges, where she is dedicated to ensuring all Florida citizens have access to local and affordable higher education. Barrett also mentors with Big Brothers, Big Sisters.

Dana Brooks Cooper is a partner with Fasig | Brooks personal injury law firm. In 2015, she was named one of the Top 100 Trial Lawyers by The National Trial Lawyers. Cooper serves on the board of 2-1-1 Big Bend and is a former board member of America's Second Harvest of the Big Bend. She is also a host of the weekly call-in show "Law Call" on WCTV and a contributing columnist for the Tallahassee Democrat.

Janeia Daniels Ingram is a hearing officer for the Florida Public Employees Relations Commission. She previously directed an award-winning pipeline program for students from underrepresented populations at the Florida State University College of Law. Ingram launched a collaborative pro bono legal clinic for area nonprofits

through the Institute for Nonprofit Innovation and Excellence, and she has assisted organizations such as Big Bend Crime Stoppers, Big Bend Hospice and Miracle Village.

Gina Giacomo is director of administration for the Florida Commission on Offender Review. She has received the Criminal Justice Distinguished Service Award and the Louie L. Wainwright Distinguished Service Award from the Florida Council on Crime and Delinquency Chapter 2. Giacomo is the treasurer of Zonta Cares, the philanthropic arm of Zonta Club of Tallahassee, and a board member of the PACE Leon Center for Girls.

Sha'Ron James is Florida's official insurance consumer advocate, committed to finding solutions to the insurance challenges facing Floridians, calling attention to questionable insurance practices, and ensuring that the market responds to the needs of Florida's diverse population. James serves on the National Council on Compensation Insurance Appeals Board and the Citizens Property Insurance Company Consumer Services Committee and is president of the Florida Chapter of the National African American Insurance Association. She is also a former chair of the Tallahassee/Leon County Commission on the Status of Women and Girls.

Andrea Jones retired as division chief of operations for the Tallahassee Fire Department and is now a consultant in structural disaster preparation. Jones is vice-chair of the Tallahassee/ Leon County Commission on the Status of Women and Girls, a member of the board of the Oasis Center for Women and Girls, a catalyst for the Village Square, and board chair for the Big Bend Homeless Coalition.

Sheila Labissiere coordinates Title I programs at Florida A & M University Developmental Research School. She also serves as site coordinator for the North Florida Freedom School-FAMU DRS, which provides a free six-week culturally responsive summer reading camp aimed at boosting students' motivation to read, generating positive attitudes toward learning, increasing self-esteem, and connecting children and families to community resources.

TCC celebrates Women's History Month honorees....

continued

Elizabeth Ricci is an attorney who has worked in immigration law since 1989. She received the Democratic Women's Club of Florida's 2016 Humanitarian Award and the 2015 Second Judicial Circuit Florida Bar President's Pro Bono Award. Ricci serves on the board of directors of the Capital City Chamber of Commerce, which supports underserved small businesses.

Anitra Thomas is the grants and training coordinator at Volunteer Florida and an active volunteer with the band and the girls' basketball team at Florida State University Schools. She is also a volunteer with the Tallahassee/ Leon County Commission on the Status of Women and Girls.

Marcia Warfel is an emergency management specialist for the Florida Commission on Community Service. Warfel is also a commissioner and community liaison for the Tallahassee/Leon County Commission on the Status of Women and Girls, a mentor with the Junior League of Tallahassee, and a member of the City of Tallahassee Family Friendly Employers Task Force.

Five TCC students were also honored for their contributions to the College and the community: Alisha Ash, Monica Garcia Vega, Sameera Shaik, Samira Taylor and Claire Toman.

For information, contact Carmy Greenwood at greenwoc@tcc.fl.edu or 850-201-8470.

(NOTE: Item also appeared on page A5 of the Gadsden County Times on Thursday, April 5, 2018 under the same headline.)

Governor Rick Scott and First Lady Ann Scott Announce 2018 Black History Month Student and Teacher Contest Winners

KATHY FOSTER
FOSTER FOLLY NEWS

Governor Rick Scott and First Lady Ann Scott have announced the 2018 Black History Month student contest winners and Excellence in Education award recipients.

This year's theme was "A Celebration of Innovative African-American Leaders" and the winners were honored last night during the annual Black History Month awards ceremony at the Florida Governor's Mansion. Black History Month is celebrated every year in Florida during the month of February.

Governor Scott said, "My wife, Ann, and I are honored to celebrate the 2018 Black History Month student and educator contest winners. It's great to recognize the hard work of these Florida students and educators and celebrate the contributions and achievements of African-Americans throughout our history."

First Lady Ann Scott said, "It's an honor to recognize this year's Black History Month contest winners and thank all of the outstanding students who participated across the state. It is wonderful to see students taking advantage of this opportunity to earn a four-year Florida College Plan scholarship while learning about Florida's innovative African-American leaders."

Volunteer Florida Chief Executive Officer Vivian Myrtetus said, "It was a pleasure joining the Governor and First Lady tonight to recognize and celebrate the outstanding work of Florida students and teachers. We are so thankful to all our sponsors who made this important event possible—especially the Florida Prepaid College Foundation which provided three, four-year college scholarships to our essay contest winners."

Education Commissioner Pam Stewart said, "It is an honor to join Governor Rick Scott and First Lady Ann Scott in celebrating Black History Month. I applaud these students and educators for the exceptional way in which they recognized the countless African-Americans who have and continue to contribute greatly to our state and nation."

The 2018 Florida Black History Month theme was "A Celebration of Innovative African American Leaders."

Award recipients are as follows:

Governor Scott and First Lady Ann Scott honored three outstanding educators with the Excellence in Education Award. These individuals were nominated by students and peers.

Excellence in Education Award winners: Hubert Emile, Wicklow Elementary School in Seminole County; Billy White, Cornerstone Charter Academy in Orange County; Khalifa Stanford, I-Tech Thomas Edison Educational Center in Miami-Dade County.

The following student essay contest winners – one elementary, one middle, and one high school student – earned a four-year Florida College Plan scholarship provided by the Florida Prepaid College Foundation.

Essay winners: Maiya Bowers, 5th Grade, Florida Virtual Schools in Walton County; Bianca Casher, 8th Grade, Miami Lakes Middle School in Miami-Dade County; Raphael Brosula, 11th Grade, Strawberry Crest High School in Hillsborough County.

Student art contest winners: Kana Reynolds, 1st Grade, Pembroke Pines Charter Elementary School in Broward County, for artwork entitled "Mary McLeod Bethune Opens Doors for Learning;" Raheed Garner, 2nd Grade, JD Parker Elementary in Martin County for artwork entitled "Martin's Big Words."

Honorable mentions: Julian Bowie, 1st Grade, Central Riverside Elementary School in Duval County, for artwork entitled "A Celebration of Innovative African American Leaders;" Kevin Guo, 3rd Grade, Equestrian Trails Elementary School in Broward County, for artwork entitled "Peace on Earth."

Volunteer Florida also recognized Champion of Service award winner Jordan Griffin, a Tallahassee Community College student who currently serves as president of the Black Male Achievers Program at TCC.

TCC women return home after winning national title

ALISON POSEY
WTVL

After five wins in five days, the Tallahassee Community College women's basketball team can finally say it.

They are your 2018 NJCAA National Champions.

After beating Trinity Valley Saturday to win their first ever National title, the team returned to Tallahassee on Monday to a lot of excited fans.

The Lady Eagles upset the two time defending National Champs in the Final Four en route to winning that first ever title.

They proved a lot of doubters wrong, and that is a satisfying thing.

"We had a good mindset to do what we did," said sophomore forward Japonica James. "Everybody thought we weren't going to get there, but I guess it took every bone in our body."

"It made them hungry and opened our eyes up," added head coach Q Bedell. "I think we had a chip on our shoulders going to Nationals like something had been taken from us and we were going to get it back and we did!"

The National title is the fourth straight year a team from the Panhandle Conference has won the NJCAA women's title. Chipola won it in 2015, while Gulf Coast won back to back titles in 2016 and 2017.

TCC women's basketball wins Junior College National Championship

ALICIA TURNER
WCTV

The Lady Eagles of Tallahassee Community College brought home the hardware.

Monday afternoon, dozens gathered to welcome the TCC women's basketball team home as they returned from Lubbock, Texas with the Junior College National Championship title.

This is the first time any team at TCC has won a national title since 1994. TCC President Dr. Jim Murdaugh says the women have truly made the school, and the city, proud.

"Our student athletes and our coaches refer to them as student athletes. They're amazing role models, and they show that you can do it all and you can do it all really well, so we're grateful," Dr. Murdaugh says.

The school said a second celebration is in the works, but for now, the team said it feels good to be celebrating such a major victory.

Florida college presidents are unified in support of CRC proposal

RYAN DAILEY
WFSU

The Presidents of Florida's 28 state colleges have unified in support of a Constitution Revision Commission proposal that recognizes the college system in the constitution. College system stakeholders feel the move is long overdue.

The state's K-12 education and university systems have had their place in Florida's constitution for some time now – but its college system, serving more than 800,000 students, has waited for the same consideration. Jim Murdaugh, president of Tallahassee Community College, says the CRC proposal would define the college system's governance structure in a way similar to that of universities.

"What it does is, it codifies our governance structure in the Florida constitutions – just as has been done for the university system, for example," Murdaugh said.

The CRC has considered two similar proposals that address the college system. But Commissioner Nicole Washington's proposal is currently getting fine-tuned by the style and drafting committee, a step away from being on the ballot in November. Washington's measure would have a local board of trustees oversee each individual college, and the State Board of Education would continue oversight of the system as a whole.

To Murdaugh, a local board of trustees made up of residents of the college's service area means increased ability to cater to local needs.

"We report to the State Board of Education just as the 67 school districts do," Murdaugh said. "That structure is not designed to bring us together to ensure what I would call more uniformity across the system – it's to make sure that we address our local needs based upon the trustees who govern us. Who represent the counties that we draw our student populations from, largely."

The move will leave differences between the governance structures of the college and university systems, Murdaugh says.

"The structure of the universities is to have a board of trustees, but then there is an oversight board – the board of governors that meets and brings all the universities together from around the state to address their collective impact at the state level," Murdaugh said.

Ava Parker is the president of Palm Beach State College. Like Murdaugh, she is a member of the Florida College System Council of Presidents. In a recent editorial in the South Florida's Sun Sentinel, Parker backed Nicole Washington's proposal, saying it would help colleges respond to growing workforce needs.

Commissioner Washington's proposal defines the college system's purpose as creating clear pathways to baccalaureate degrees, and specifies it is intended to respond to workforce needs in the region.

Math innovations: Comprehensive student support

FCRD SPOTLIGHT

Colleges are instituting enhanced student supports to boost progress for students enrolled in math courses. These supports are improving collaboration and coordination between departments and between the institution and community partners.

Tallahassee Community College (TCC) is providing students with hands-on opportunities to help their fellow scholars improve their math skills thanks to its new Math Champions Student Success Initiative. These mentors, or Champions, will guide their fellow students in developmental and gateway math courses. This program, a partnership between the Transitional Studies and Science and Math divisions, is overseen by Anthony Jones, dean of science and math; Kalynda Holton, associate dean of science and math; and Sharisse Turner, dean of transitional studies.

The Math Champions are students who have proven success in math courses. They serve as peer mentors for students in courses such as Developmental Mathematics and College Algebra. Each Math Champion receives a \$900 scholarship and has a faculty mentor who provides guidance in leadership development and tutoring skills.

“Research indicates that well-designed peer-to-peer support models are effective in increasing success and retention,” said Sharisse Turner, TCC dean of transitional studies and leader of the Math Champions initiative design team. “Our Math Champions, their faculty mentors and the students being served find this peer mentoring experience highly beneficial.”

The initiative is designed to increase success, retention and persistence rates, and student engagement on campus. Data show that this is an effective program. In the fall of 2017, Foundations of College Mathematics II and Intermediate Algebra sections that had embedded Math Champions saw significant improvements in student success (5.4% and 13.3% increases respectively over sections without Math Champions).

Civility is needed now more than ever

BILL COTTERELL

TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT

Former Supreme Court Justice Potter Stewart famously declared that he could not define obscenity with a one-size-fits-all legal standard, "but I know it when I see it."

The same can be said of civility. Common courtesy, in political debate or daily business activity, seems a relic of a long-gone era. Sometimes, it seems we've normalized crude language and scurrilous personal attacks – even deliberate falsehood – to the point that anyone suggesting we tone it down a bit is considered a prude, a censor or even a bigot.

The Tallahassee Community College board of trustees last month approved a policy attempting to set a tone "civility and mutual respect." The faculty union promptly told the trustees where they can stick their civility guidelines.

The new TCC policy covers "a broad range of inappropriate, unacceptable behavior, from rude or obnoxious behavior on one end of the spectrum, to threats of violence and acts of violence on the other." The policy is not intended to infringe on anyone's freedom of speech, but merely "to maintain, to the extent possible and reasonable, a safe, mutually respectful, harassment-free workplace and learning environment."

Y'all play nice, now, ya hear? Wouldst that it were as simple and readily agreed-upon as our parents and teachers taught us on the playground.

From the president describing some poor countries in his own colorful way, to School Superintendent Rocky Hanna losing his temper on the Capitol steps during the big guns rally, we seem to have lost the ability to disagree agreeably. At least Hanna apologized for calling state legislators "idiots," a fairly mild term by current standards.

It's as if we feel excused from rules of common decency, if we disagree strongly. We don't even have to stick to the topic at hand.

Conservative commentator Laura Ingraham apologized last week for her off-base ridicule of David Hogg, the Parkland high school student who became prominent in the gun protests. If she, and others on the right, had engaged the topic on its substance – the validity of raising the purchase age to 21 or banning assault weapons – Ingraham would not have advertisers abandoning her program.

But she had to go and talk about Hogg getting turned down by some universities, despite a sterling GPA. What's that got to do with the gun debate?

Similarly, Emma Gonzalez, another of the Parkland teens, has been roundly denounced on the internet for wearing a Cuban flag patch on her jacket when she spoke in Washington last weekend – as if that implied support for the Castro government. Well, she wore an Apollo moon landing patch on her other shoulder, does that make her a big fan of the space program?

If you've been to South Florida lately, you might have seen expressions of affection for Cuba – the homeland, not the dictators. Ditto Italian neighborhoods of New York or Polish parts of Milwaukee.

And what has that to do with firearms legislation, anyway?

A worse problem with getting information – any information – from the internet is that people simply lie with impunity online. There's a widely circulated meme showing Gonzalez tearing a pistol range target, a photo made for Teen Vogue. But somebody photoshopped a copy of the Constitution onto the target, so it looks like she's ripping up the Bill of Rights.

Leaving aside the fact that anyone has a right to tear up the Constitution or burn the flag, that's not what she did. If people will lie to make us feel one way or another about someone in a political argument, what does that say about their position on the issue at hand?

The kids can be obnoxious. They're a bit full of themselves and, considering what they've been through, that's to be expected. But they are not "crisis actors," as some of the internet conspiracy loons have called them, and they have the same right as you or I to state their views – and to vote.

Getting back to TCC's "Civility and Mutual Respect" policy, as Justice Stewart said, it's probably impossible to write a legal definition that will suit everyone and every situation. But it would be nice if, whether it's a Facebook meme or a protest on the Capitol steps, everyone tries to stick to the pros and cons of the business at hand instead of personally attacking those on the other side.

Especially if they have to make stuff up.

TCC honors law enforcement duo for Women's History event

TALAHASSEE DEMOCRAT (CAMPUS NOTES)

The Florida Public Safety Institute hosted its 12th annual Women in History Month Breakfast for Criminal Justice Personnel yesterday.

Major Nancy Rasmussen of the Florida Highway Patrol and Captain Lindsey Maxwell of the Wakulla County Sheriff's Office were honored in a ceremony that followed the national theme for Women's History Month: "Nevertheless, She Persisted: Honoring Women Who Fight All Forms of Discrimination Against Women."

The speaker was Jennifer Cook Pritt, assistant commissioner of the Florida Department of Law Enforcement. Pritt oversees Capitol Police, Business Support, Criminal Justice Information Services, Information Technology Services, Professionalism and External/ Legislative Affairs at FDLE.

Attendees also enjoyed a performance by members of the Cobb Middle School orchestra, under the direction of Ashley Hagadorn. The program wrapped up with a rendition of "The Star-Spangled Banner" by Rasheen Richardson, executive director of the Legacy School of Performing Arts Institute in Quincy. Presentation of Colors was by an all-female Honor Guard from the Marine Corps Junior ROTC program at Leon High School.

The Florida Public Safety Institute is part of Tallahassee Community College.

TCC women endures tough schedule to win JUCO national title

ST. CLAIR MURRAINE
CAPITAL OUTLOOK

Early in the season, Coach Franqua Bedell watched his Tallahassee Community College women's basketball team go through a portion of its schedule playing five games in eight days.

But playing five games in as many days to win a NJCAA? That's a different set of dynamics. For one thing, a loss could have ended the season.

Bedell harkened back to the stretch of games his team played in a week as the reason the Eagles didn't flinch in either of the five consecutive games they won to capture the school's first women's basketball national title this past weekend in Lubbock, Texas.

"I did that on purpose because I knew that at some point we were going to have to go back, to back to back," Bedell said Sunday, while the team was taking the journey back to Tallahassee by bus. "Fatigue wasn't my biggest worry. If we thought about it we would not win."

The Eagles took the championship by beating Trinity Valley (Texas) Community College 69-51. Trinity Valley is an eight-time winner of the tournament and was heavily favored to repeat one more time.

Instead, TCC has its first national title in any sport since softball won the NJCAA crown in 1994.

"It's kind of Europhobic," Bedell said. "You spend five years, even longer than that, dreaming about something of this caliber. Now it's come true, I'm like Ricky Bobby; I don't know what to do with my hands."

"I'm still in shock with this team. It's something unbelievable."

Perhaps because the Eagles had to beat two familiar foes in defending champions Gulf Coast Community College and Northwest Florida College. Both teams held wins over the Eagles during the regular season.

None of that figured into their games in the tournament, said Nakiah Black, who along with Japonica James and Jamyra McChristine made the all-tournament team. They defeated Gulf Coast by 10 and overcame a 10 point deficit to eliminate Northwest Florida by three points.

"We knew what kind of players we are and we knew what kind of grind and grit we have," Black said. "We used that to the best of our ability."

"We knew what we were going for. We couldn't go out there playing strictly off emotion."

Bedell said his team knew what it was up against when the brackets came out. Anticipating that they'd be playing the entire week, he put together a post-game schedule that called for the team to spend at least 40 minutes stretching.

Being in a late game every night also allowed the players to get plenty of rest, Bedell said.

"Our coaches prepared us well," said Black, who scored 13 points in the championship game. "In practice they made it a hard environment so that we got used to it. As a team we just rallied together and pushed through."

The trip to Lubbock was Bedell's fourth time contending for a national title. In 2006 and 2007 he took teams from Southeastern Illinois and had a third-place finish as his best.

Last year, the Eagles made it to the second round after getting a first-round bye.

This time, he led his team to the championship after having to dismiss Jas Hill, the team's leading scorer. They didn't flinch, though.

"Other people step in and said, 'OK, coach I will do this,' and then someone said 'I would do this' and the next night someone else said 'I'm going to do this.'"

"It was done by committee not just one player. It made us something special and now we are national champions of junior college basketball."

Hyland expands higher education customer advisory boards

Company's industry-focused user group reaches 1,000 participants; executive advisory board adds new members

MCKINZEY SAIG
HYLAND.COM

Hyland marked two major customer engagement milestones within the higher education industry, reaching one thousand members of the company's Vertical OnBase Group of User Experts (VOGUE) and adding two members representing Perceptive Content customers to Hyland's higher education advisory board. Both groups consist of professionals who share expert guidance and real-world scenarios with the software company, helping shape current practices and future solutions.

The VOGUE board consists of Hyland customers and leaders from the higher education space, representing public and private, and large and small institutions across the country. These experts gather feedback from end users across campus offices, and voice their needs to Hyland representatives who convert this meaningful insight into improved functionality and better integrations with key systems and applications.

At the other end of the spectrum, the Hyland higher education advisory board consists of technology executives who convene to discuss the role that IT is playing in the future of education and innovation. This group provides a macro look at higher education trends and challenges such as advancing their capture, accessibility and compliance, cloud strategies, cybersecurity and long-term goals of their institutions. This board has been deliberately chosen to represent the full range of institutions and a wide array of leading ERP and CRM solutions within their technology stack, providing Hyland with comprehensive feedback and helping the company anticipate future needs.

New members of the advisory board include:

Mike Lucas, University of Georgia

David Baisley, Carnegie Mellon University

They join continuing board members:

John Ellinger, Bowling Green State University

John McGuthry, Cal Poly Pomona

Ben Quillian, California State University, Northridge

Chris Manriquez, California State University, Dominguez Hills

Miro Humer, Case Western Reserve University

Gary Stanowski, Columbia College

Lucas Hissong, Columbus State Community College

Jerry Hourigan, Cuyahoga Community College

Jim Thomas, Indiana University (System)

Link Alander, Lone Star College System

Kirk Kelly, Portland State University

Bret Ingerman, Tallahassee Community College

Bob Mains, The Ohio State University

Susan Hunter, University of Alabama

David Seidl, University of Notre Dame

"It's essential to hear from our customers who share real-time campus challenges that drive enhancements to our products, customer experience, support services and community," said Dave Vegh, director of higher education sales at Hyland. "The insight from both groups plays a critical role in our ability to stay ahead of institution needs and shape our higher education portfolio. This micro and macro input helps us lead the industry in the evolution from enterprise content management (ECM) to content services, a shift that best serves our customers with a suite of choices."

For more information about how Hyland supports higher education institutions to realize campus-wide efficiencies and improve the student experience, visit OnBase.com/HigherEd.

Five years later, Bedell delivered on his letter

JIM HENRY

TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT

The letter – handwritten on standard white stationary paper – is in the middle drawer of Rob Chaney’s office desk at Tallahassee Community College.

Franqua “Q” Bedell mailed the letter to Chaney, the Eagles’ director of athletics, following his interview at TCC for the women’s basketball coaching vacancy five years ago.

Bedell thanked Chaney for the opportunity to interview and also said, “I know it can be a place we can hang banners!!!”

Cue to the Eagles’ first national championship, accomplished last week under Bedell as TCC thumped Trinity Valley Community College 69-51.

No. 11 seed TCC (29-6), which earned an at-large bid in the 24-team, single elimination tournament that spanned six days, won five consecutive games at the NJCAA Division I Women’s Basketball Championship in Lubbock, Texas.

Now, cue to the letter that Chaney pulled from his desk drawer – it was next to the miniature screwdriver set, bottle of aspirin and TCC men’s basketball cards from 2010 – and shared with Bedell on Tuesday morning.

Both had a good laugh.

“When you watch one of our games, you will notice he doesn’t sit a whole lot,” Chaney said. “We were all impressed with his interview and the vision he had.”

Bedell still remembers writing the letter to Chaney. He had no idea if TCC planned to hire him. In fact, he still vividly remembers his visit to Tallahassee from Richmond, Virginia, where he was an assistant women’s basketball coach at Virginia Commonwealth.

Bedell arrived three days early and walked every inch of the TCC campus. He wanted to feel it and see it. He wanted to be convinced he could make an impact and change lives of student-athletes if hired. During his interview, the confident Bedell told the search committee he believed TCC could win a national title within five years.

He delivered.

The 41-year-old is a women’s basketball coach and life coach.

He instructs his players to write down their goals. He encourages them to play with passion on the court. He challenges them to make a difference in the classroom and community.

While TCC’s national championship has brought deserved fanfare to Bedell, the program and the school, Bedell’s gratification comes from the journey. The congratulatory calls, voice mails and text messages have genuinely moved him.

“That is why you coach,” Bedell explained. “Not so much the national championship, which I think everyone wants to experience, but the biggest thing is the kids believe in what you taught them. Trust the process. They thank you and say they are proud of you. In my book, I have won several national championships.

“Those seasons didn’t end with a trophy, but it came with a changed life.”

Now let’s cue to the name, Franqua.

It is French and it is pronounced “frahns-wah.” Bedell has no idea why his mother spelled it that way. When grade-school teachers got to his name and hesitated, Bedell politely raised his hand and pronounced his name.

Actually, Bedell probably shouldn’t even be here.

A twin, Bedell was born way early, weighed 1 pound and spent six months in the hospital. His mother’s best friend planned to name her son “frahns-wah,” but she had all girls. To honor her best friend, Bedell’s mom named him Franqua with her special spelling of “frahns-wah.”

A final cue to his nickname “Q,” which he was given in graduate school. His professor, a fast-talking New Yorker, said he didn’t have time to say “Franqua” every time he called on him in class. While spelling it out loud, the professor settled on the letter “Q.”

Coach Q has built a winner at TCC.

Five years later, Bedell delivered on his letter...

continued

Five years prior to his arrival, the Eagles won 65 games, including 12 Panhandle Conference games, and enjoyed one 20-win season. In Bedell's five years, TCC has 99 overall wins, 27 conference wins and three 20-win seasons.

And a banner.

TCC earned an at-large bid into the national tourney this season on the strength of its 24-6 record, a wire-towire run inside the NJCAA top 10 and its second-place finish in the Panhandle Conference.

The Eagles returned from Texas with the first women's basketball national championship and the school's first national title in any sport since softball won the NJCAA crown in 1994.

Five years ago nobody recognized Bedell when he walked the campus. That's not the case today.

"It's still kind of surreal that we are national champions," Bedell said.

"I am not going to argue about the madness, chaos, and attention – it's something to be proud of. I am excited for the school, Rob (Chaney), all the people who have become before me. I am glad to be able to represent them and give them something to cheer for."

Bedell scribbled a perfect ending to his letter five years ago to Chaney. Underneath "Coach Q" it read: "Dream start in the (heart symbol)."

State operational audit targets funds used for TCC's Starbucks

BYRON DOBSON

TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT

An operational audit raises questions over Tallahassee Community College's use of auxiliary funds to open and run a downtown Starbucks that lost more than \$200,000 in its first year of operation.

The Auditor General's Office said the college hasn't provided proof the cafe's primary goal is to serve students, faculty and staff — as prescribed by Florida College System guidelines — rather than the public.

The concern about the Starbucks is one of eight findings cited in the operational audit released last week. An audit of TCC's financial operations yielded no findings.

When TCC opened its downtown Starbucks in January 2017, administrators said it would help with student entrepreneurial training, boost downtown economic development and, eventually, make a profit.

Unlike Starbucks cafes at Florida State and Florida A&M, which are operated by private food-service contractors, TCC used "unrestricted" auxiliary funds to build and operate the premium coffee spot at its Center for Innovation on Kleman Plaza.

"College records did not demonstrate that a coffee retail store, operated as an auxiliary enterprise of the college, primarily provided non-instructional services for sale to students, faculty, and staff and that the general public was only incidentally served," the report states.

And, according to Jaime Hoelscher, audit manager for the Auditor General's Office, that raises a question about the college's compliance with rules in the State Accounting Manual for Florida's College System.

"Absent such, college records do not evidence the authority for the college to engage in retail activities or demonstrate the basis upon which the store operated as an auxiliary enterprise."

The audit found during the 2016-17 fiscal year, TCC spent \$1.2 million to renovate 24,600 square feet of the plaza level of its College Center for Innovation for a mixed-use meeting, conference, and event area.

In addition, TCC spent \$841,000 in auxiliary funds to construct, license, and supply the 1,400-square-foot

Starbucks. From January through December 2017, the cafe generated \$227,000 in sales and incurred \$436,000 in expenses.

Barbara Wills, TCC's chief business officer and vice president for administrative affairs, said the college welcomes the state's recommendations but defended the college's downtown operations.

"The AGs office is concerned with who we serve," Wills said in an email. "We are a community college and thereby serve traditional degreeseeking students as well as those seeking training for the workforce or at TCC for a certificate program. The center is a comprehensive service center of the college."

Wills said the Center for Innovation meets the needs of students, particularly the non-traditional students who come to participate in computer technology training, not-for-profit operations training, retail training, and special programs offered by TCC.

Twelve students participated in training opportunities at the Starbucks during the 2017 calendar year to potentially earn customer service or retail management certifications.

As of January 2018, five had earned a customer service certification and two earned a retail management certification.

"However, although we requested, college records were not provided to document the total number of college students, faculty, and staff who participated in educational activities at the center," the report says.

"Absent such records, the college should seek an opinion from the Attorney General regarding the authority to operate the coffee retail store," the audit reads. Wills said TCC already has taken steps to improve its recordkeeping of center participants "to further demonstrate that the auxiliary enterprise provides services for sale to students, faculty, and staff."

State operational audit targets funds used for TCC's Starbucks....

continued

Regarding figures showing expenses nearly doubling the amount generated by sales, Wills said the goal was to provide students with hands-on business experience, to increase traffic downtown and to provide an auxiliary enterprise for TCC.

"It is not run with state dollars, but with money generated by our other enterprises," Wills said. "The business model is to increase revenue over time."

State: Clarify payments to the TCC Foundation

The audit also said TCC's board of trustees needs to strengthen policies as it relates to the TCC Foundation, which operates as a direct-support organization, or DSO.

For instance, TCC made payments, totaling \$86,750, to a consultant on behalf of the Foundation for the organization's finance and accounting functions. In September 2017, the college hired the consultant as a fulltime employee.

The college also paid \$112,515 to the foundation for operating expenses.

"College records were not provided evidencing any specific statutory authority permitting the college to make payments totaling \$199,265 to or on behalf of the Foundation," Jaime Hoelscher, audit manager for the Auditor General's Office, told the Democrat.

The audit recommended TCC stop making such payments until authority is granted. TCC also should recover from the Foundation the \$199,265 "in questionable payments."

Summary of other findings (NOTE: This portion printed only in digital version of the story):

TCC did not always perform level 2 background screenings for individuals in positions of special trust. (Similar note in previous audit).

The college did not have a mechanism for exempt employees to report time worked and needs to implement procedures requiring supervisors to document the review and approval of such time. (Similar note in previous audit).

College collection efforts need to be followed up.

P-card privileges need to promptly be canceled once an employee leaves the college.

The college needs to enhance procedures for documenting a student's classification as a Florida resident for tuition purposes.

Some unnecessary information technology user access privileges existed that increased the risk that unauthorized disclosure of student Social Security numbers may occur.

TCC student named Champion of Service

TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT (CAMPUS NOTES)

TCC sophomore Jordan Griffin has received a Champion of Service Award from Volunteer Florida. The award honors individuals and groups for their outstanding efforts in volunteerism and service.

The award was presented at a ceremony at the Florida Governor's Mansion on March 23. Jordan Griffin was joined at the presentation by his parents, Patricia and Lloyd Griffin.

Griffin currently serves as president of the Black Male Achievers Program at TCC. He has also served as a legislative intern for Representative Sharon Pritchett. In the last several years, Griffin has participated in volunteer activities such as mentoring fifth graders with fellow BMA members at John G. Riley Elementary School, volunteering at the John G. Riley Center and Museum, and serving as a TCC peer leader.

TCC Brain Bowl completes winning season

TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT (CAMPUS NOTES)

The TCC Brain Bowl team wrapped up a successful season with a winning match record and a fifthplace finish at the Florida College System Activities Association State Brain Bowl Tournament, held at Chipola College March 15-17.

The team put together a 5-4 record at the tournament, defeating teams from Broward College, Chipola College, Florida Gateway College, Gulf Coast State College and Santa Fe College. The squad consisted of team captain Jeremy Jones, Max Culbreath, Chaz Hamilton and Jeremy Pennington.

Throughout the season spanning January through March, the team compiled a match record of 25 wins and 20 losses including a 7-6 mark at the National Academic Quiz Tournaments national competition for community colleges.

TCC Chapter of UFF wins two prestigious awards

TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT (CAMPUS NOTES)

At the recent 2018 United Faculty of Florida Senate meeting, the TCC chapter received the Florida Education Association 2017 Gold membership award for membership that is given to chapters with over 70 percent faculty membership. The chapter was thrilled to also win the FEA Platinum membership award that goes to the FEA affiliate with the largest membership growth as percentage of faculty in the entire state.

Community discussion on gun control held at TCC

LANETRA BENNETT
WCTV

An open discussion on gun control issues was held at Tallahassee Community College on Wednesday.

It was an informal, intimate and relaxed setting in the Workforce Development Center. About 100 people, mostly TCC students, attended.

The moderator of the gun control discussion was Kermit Harrison, an associate philosophy professor at TCC.

He says he wanted to bring people together for a safe, civil conversation on gun control, to perhaps move the issues forward toward solutions.

TCC student Alexander Morgan participated. He said, "I did kind of figure because of my hobbies and stuff I'm only around people who are familiar with guns and already on sort of one side of the issue. I think more people should be having discussions about this and really talking it out."

The groups discussed their views on the Second Amendment and if it's relevant today, gun legislation, if they believe mass school shootings are relevant to gun control and underlying issues of gun violence, such as socioeconomic factors and mental health.

"Coming together to have the conversation allows people to broaden their notions about things. It also allows them to get it from the people who hold the positions and not necessarily from an external narrative that we don't know it's origin. So, it's important about all issues. But, definitely this one, it's important for the community to talk," Professor Harrison said.

The event was free and open to the public.

WEI to host 5k Trail Run/Walk

WAKULLA NEWS

Tallahassee Community College's Wakulla Environmental Institute will be hosting the Hops and Half Shells 5k Trail Run/Walk on Saturday, April 14, at 9 a.m. Proceeds from the race will benefit scholarships at TCC. More than 300 runners attended last year's race, which raised almost \$3,000 for scholarships.

Participants will experience the beauty and 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 master male and female, top male and female TCC 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 age 21 and older will be offered free oysters farmed by WEI's oyster aquaculture students and free craft beer from Deep Brewing Company.

Participants can pre-register by April 11 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 Wakulla Insurance Agency, Periodontal Associates of North Florida and Capital City Bank Group.

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

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