

# TALLAHASSEE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

*In the News*

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January 13 - February 16, 2018



# TALLAHASSEE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

## *In the News*

- Tallahassee Democrat . . . . . 4-5,  
8-12, 14, 17, 23-30, 32, 34, 36, 38
- Capital Outlook . . . . . 6
- PublicNow.com . . . . . 7
- WTXL . . . . . 12-13, 15, 20
- Gadsden County Times . . . . . 14, 22
- Havana Herald . . . . . 14, 31, 35
- WCTV . . . . . 15, 20
- News4Jax.com . . . . . 16
- Atlanta Journal-Constitution . . . . . 19-20
- Florida State University News . . . . . 21
- WFSU . . . . . 25
- Wakulla News . . . . . 29
- MLK Foundation Booklet . . . . . 33
- LINK for Counselors . . . . . 37

January 13 - February 16, 2018

# TALLAHASSEE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

*In the News*



## Electronic Media

- January 23 - WTXL - TCC officials look into student's racist social media posts
- January 24 - WTXL - Anthony Jones talks impact of STEM education
- January 24 - WTXL - TCC collaborates with FAMU, FSU to open Emmett Till exhibit
- January 26 - WCTV - Wakulla Center kicks off Safety Series with first aid/CPR training
- January 28 - WCTV - Greg Williams discusses unveiling of African-American History Calendar
- January 29 - WCTV/WTXL - TCC unveils Cherry Hall Alexander Calendar in ceremony
- February 1 - WTXL - TCC hosts Spring 2018 scholarship fair
- February 6 - WCTV/WTXL - Man attacks TCC student on campus in isolated incident, arrested
- February 13 - WCTV/WTXL - FPSI hosts annual Black History Month community breakfast
- February 13 - WCTV - TCC's nursing program ranks 12th-best in state of Florida
- February 16 - WTXL - Kim Moore discusses Darrell Freeman event at Cfl
- February 16 - WTXL - "A Town Divided" production on race relations presented at TCC
- February 16 - WTXL - Rick Murgo talks TSMUN conference at Ghazvini Center

## Local campuses, schools are powered up over city's solar farm

BYRON DOBSON

TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT

Pushed by the desire to boost sustainability efforts, Tallahassee's three major college campuses have signed energy agreements with the city's solar farm.

Leon County Schools also is on board.

Leading the pack is Florida State University, which has agreed to purchase 20 million kilowatt hours annually. Florida A&M University is purchasing 6 million kilowatts annually, **TCC, 1 million** and Leon County Schools, 2 million.

FSU's agreement represents about 10 percent of the energy consumption at its main campus, said Kyle Clark, vice president for finance and administration.

FSU is the city's largest customer and makes up 10 percent of the total energy sales.

"This partnership is a key part of our strategic plan to reduce our overall footprint and build a university-wide culture of environmental care," Clark said.

The solar partnership is FSU's effort to reduce its carbon footprint.

FSU's Sustainability Hub at the Seminole Organic Garden.

FSU's Sustainability Hub at the Seminole Organic Garden. (Photo: Bruce W. Palmer/FSU Photo Services)

Last year, 12 solar panels were installed on top of the FSU Sustainability Hub at the Seminole Organic Garden.

The campus also has an Off-Grid Zero Emission Building, designed to operate exclusively on solar energy.

"Florida State University is a leader when it comes to research, innovative technology and sustainability, and we value their support of the city's first solar farm," Tallahassee's interim City Manager Reese Goad said.

In 2014, FAMU was the first university in Florida to join the Better Building Challenge sponsored by the U.S. Department of Energy. In doing so, the university agreed to reach a 20-percent reduction in energy use over 10 years.

Sameer Kapileshwari, FAMU's associate vice president for facilities, planning, construction, and safety, said signing up with the solar farm extends the university's focus on sustainability as part of its strategic planning.

"Solar energy not only provides environmental benefits of reducing our reliance on fossil fuels, thereby reducing emissions and our carbon footprint, but also participating in such programs makes economic sense," Kapileshwari said. "Having a fixed fuel rate will also decrease FAMU's energy bill over time."

Goad said FAMU was the first of the institutions to respond to the city's application.

Under the plans, FSU is committing \$1 million annually, FAMU, \$300,000, **TCC, \$50,000** and LCS \$100,000.

The city has committed to provide solar energy for 20 years without any increases, so the value would be the same each year for the next 20 years, Goad said.

**TCC's buy-in of 1 million kilowatt hours a year is enough to power the Ghazvini Center for Healthcare Education and the TCC Center for Innovation downtown at Kleman Plaza.**

**TCC's purchase represents nearly 11 percent of energy used by the college, said Don Herr, TCC's director of facilities.**

**"This is an environmentally sound decision—and a chance to lock in energy prices and hopefully benefit our bottom line," he said.**

**The partnership also aligns with the college's "net zero" at the Wakulla Environmental Institute and its course training in "green" jobs, TCC President Jim Murdaugh said.**

Based on last year's consumption figures, Leon County Schools is eligible to subscribe to 2 million kilowatt hours a year, Merrill Wimberly, assistant superintendent for business services, said.

The total electricity cost for Leon County Schools in FY 2017 was \$5.9 million. The fixed rate for solar over 20 years means the district will be paying \$30,000 more per year than would have been paid utilizing the current utility rate.

"This is relatively an inexpensive financial commitment to demonstrate solidarity with the other institutions supporting the green initiative," he said.

## Nursing grad fulfilling childhood dream

TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT (SPONSORED STORIES)

Even before Courtney Weiner graduated from the nursing program at Tallahassee Community College in December, she had already lined up her dream job—a full-time position in the neonatal intensive care unit at Tallahassee Memorial HealthCare.

Weiner's dream began two decades ago, when the then preschooler announced that she was going to be a pediatric nurse. It took shape as Weiner continually sought opportunities to develop the clinical and interpersonal skills she will need as a member of the pediatric healthcare team.

Before enrolling in TCC's nursing program, Weiner earned a bachelor's degree at Florida State University in family and child sciences, with a certificate in developmental disabilities. While at FSU, she did research related to parenting children with disabilities. Weiner entered the nursing program in January 2016 and has also been working part-time at TMH as a nurse extern in the NICU.

"I like getting to work with families, getting to incorporate family care, cause you're not just treating the babies, you're treating the whole family."

According to Jamie Cook, who directs TCC's nursing program, Weiner has been an exemplary student. Her steady success is all the more remarkable given that Weiner's mother was killed in a car accident in December 2016—just as Courtney was reaching the halfway mark in the nursing program.

"It was hard to find motivation, but I just took it one day at a time and kept pushing because this is something I've wanted for so long."

Weiner's classmates rallied around her, preplanning for a possible delay of her return to classes, anticipating how they could help her.

"The students were so very concerned for her well-being," said Cook. "This class has stuck together and has always lifted up their fellow classmates. Courtney is an amazing young woman. She so sweet and so very smart—the nursing world is wide open to her."

## TCC Wakulla Center to host free First Aid/CPR training

TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT (CAMPUS NOTES)

The Tallahassee Community College Wakulla Center will offer a free First Aid/CPR Awareness course targeted to Wakulla County business owners, their employees, faith-based groups and community members on Friday, Jan. 26, from 1-3 p.m.

The training will be provided by staff of Capital Regional Medical Center led by Karen M. Taylor, a registered nurse and CRMC's clinical manager of emergency services. The Wakulla Center is located at 2932 Crawfordville Highway in Crawfordville, inside the Centennial Bank building.

Interested individuals may register by contacting the Wakulla Center at 558-3525 or [WakullaCenter@tcc.fl.edu](mailto:WakullaCenter@tcc.fl.edu).

This will be the first in a series of safety trainings at the Wakulla Center. All sessions are free and open to the public.

## Bedell building something 'very special' at TCC

ST. CLAIR MURRAINE

CAPITAL OUTLOOK

Franqua Bedell, who is doing something remarkable with this year's version of the women's basketball team at Tallahassee Community College, really didn't need more than the five words he used to describe his players.

"This team is very special," he said.

Not just that. The Eagles are undefeated at 15-0. Yes, it's a school record and they surpassed the old mark by six games. It's been 21 years since a TCC team has started a season with such a long winning streak.

They closed out the non-conference portion of the season with an 89-55 victory at home over Chattahoochee Valley Community College of Alabama. The litmus test begins Saturday when TCC opens Panhandle Conference play at Gulf Coast Community College.

Everything that makes this team amazing was on display against the Pirates.

They swatted more than a few passes out of bounds to save a field goal by the Pirates. They struck quickly; like when Jas Hill dropped three straight three-pointers and Jamyra McChristine forced a turnover and converted it for a layup for 11 Eagles' point in a span of under 30 seconds.

That run put them up 41-23 and even then they fought for every loose ball.

This women's team knows hustle indeed. And, let's not forget that they've won most of their games by 50 points or more.

After the first quarter the Eagles were up 24-9, marking the 18th time that they held an opponent to single digits in a quarter.

Hill, who all season has been amazing for the Eagles and went into the game as the nation's leading scorer (24.8 ppg), clearly is leader of the team.

She won't admit as much, though. "It's our team and we play together," is how she explained what's going on with the Eagles.

But she stands out nonetheless. Just look at her eight three-pointers in each of two games going back to last season for the school record. She came pretty close to doing that again with six against the Pirates.

Bedell still refuses to make everything about Hill. Every other player has a vital role in their success, he insists.

Why, coach?

"I want to have a program where night in and night out when you walk into this gym you know you will have to contribute to this team in some fashion."

Undisputable when you look at the Eagles' success. Another part of that is the way Bedell works the sidelines, stressing little on the X's and O's of the game.

Take for example when freshman Mari Hill gave up a shot while on defense.

"Stop being so nice," Bedell hollered across the floor. "Be mean."

"Those are the kinds of things I feel like you have to coach," he said. "It has nothing to do with X's and O's. At the end of the day, it has everything to do with what mood and engagement your players have."

It starts with practice and Bedell is grooming his team for a lot. There's the Panhandle Conference championship and a possible berth to the national championship.

It's almost as if every regular season game has a championship on the line.

"A lot of mistakes coaches make nowadays are coaches think kids can't reach the challenge," he said. "I have to push them; they have to be challenged."



## TCC recognizes three local businesses for their support

PUBLICNOW.COM

Tallahassee Community College recognized several local businesses for their support at a January 16 meeting of the TCC District Board of Trustees.

Heather Mitchell, executive director of the TCC Foundation, introduced Brooke Hallock of Capital City Bank, lead sponsor of Cleaver and Cork, the Foundation's annual farm-to-table food and wine experience. Proceeds from Cleaver and Cork support scholarships and enhance student success at TCC.

The bank signed on as a supporter for the first Cleaver and Cork evening in 2016, committing \$50,000 over a three-year period to help create a true signature event.

'It was very meaningful that Capital City Bank was willing to help us create a totally new event and commit to supporting it for three years,' said Mitchell. 'Their investment gave us a lot of momentum and helped make this event a huge success.'

Mitchell said Capital City Bank is known for supporting events and causes that help propel the community forward, such as the United Way Downtown Getdowns and the Greater Tallahassee Chamber Conference.

Hallock, the bank's chief brand officer, said, 'I live in a world of bankers, and they all talk about ROI.... We signed on with Cleaver and Cork because I knew... the ROI was immediate with Tallahassee Community College- because everything that we were raising goes right back to the community.'

Local business leader and philanthropist Rick Kearney, CEO and chair of Mainline Information Systems, will also support Cleaver and Cork with a gift of \$25,000.

Kearney is a long-time supporter of students and programs at TCC.

'From scholarships to classroom renovations-and a new project that will be announced in February-Rick has been a steadfast partner in making our community better through TCC's work,' said Mitchell.

This year's edition of Cleaver and Cork is on March 2 and will feature Food Network chef Amanda Freitag, who is a judge on the hit series, 'Chopped,' and co-host of 'American Dinner Revival.'

Students will also benefit from a new scholarship established by longtime local business Target Print & Mail, which was represented by its president, Tracey Cohen, and Jeremy Cohen, who leads business development services.

The need-based scholarship will target returning adult students interested in pursuing a degree in degree in a career or workforce program. The intent of the scholarship is to provide resources that can help break the cycle of poverty through education, said Tracey Cohen.

'It is astounding the number of applications I receive for customer service positions where the candidates have worked at one or all of three places: a big box store, a fast food restaurant or a call center. It seems like these are the only jobs available to people without training in a trade or college. My goal is to help in some small way to give someone who wants to work more options,' said Cohen.

For information, contact Heather Mitchell at [mitchelh@tcc.fl.edu](mailto:mitchelh@tcc.fl.edu) or (850) 201-6067.

## Tally Shorts Film Festival continues to grow

AMANDA SIERADZKI  
TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT

Like many great inventions of the imagination, the Tally Shorts Film Festival was born in a garage.

Conspiring alongside six other Tallahassee film visionaries, Mark Bauer wanted to increase the odds for independent filmmakers to have their work spotlighted, so as not be lost in the deluge of media prevalent in today's market. Short films especially get the short-end of the stick, a disadvantage as it's the place where Bauer says many filmmakers "cut their teeth."

The first year they launched the festival, it was a grassroots effort and free to attend. Six years later, Bauer says the festival continues to grow in both audience and submissions, showing short films from all over the world, and will premiere its sixth season Jan. 26 and 27 at the Challenger Learning Center.

"Last year we had Phillip Middleton visit us from Australia, and filmmakers from Finland and Iraq come and represent their films," says Bauer, who is also proud of the local talent that is part of the festival as well. "You find that the goal of all filmmakers is to get as many people to watch a film as they can. We wanted to bring that to Tallahassee with short films and give them an avenue to show their stuff."

Before he was a filmmaker, Bauer first honed his artistic skills in the realm of fine arts. Both of his parents were artists in their own right, and he was inclined to follow a similar path. He credits his high school art teacher, Mr. Stuber, for imparting to him the importance of composition. Those foundations are something he still carries with him when envisioning his short films.

**Before earning his bachelor's in studio art at Florida State University, Bauer found a mentor in Tallahassee Community College professor Carlos Miranda. He and Miranda still keep in close contact, as both are founding members of the Tally Shorts Film Festival. Enrolling in a video course in college first introduced Bauer to the idea of pursuing film. He remembers making his first film about a chess match but laughs as he recalls it.**

"It was fun, but I'm sure if I opened it up now I would cringe," says Bauer. "All artists go through that journey with their early work."

Working in editing, animation, graphic design, and freelance, Bauer's experience spans every realm of film and video production. One of the most important lessons he's learned in the field is to not overlook pre-production.

Before getting a camera rolling, he stresses how pre-planning each step of the process meticulously will save time in the long run. He sees production itself as being the most fun as you feel you're accomplishing something each day, whereas post-production can be more of a nail-biter.

"That's when you assemble the pieces and see it all come together," says Bauer. "It's pretty nerve-racking because it could have all gone wrong or you might have captured lightning in a bottle."

Bauer has been a professional and hobbyist independent filmmaker for fifteen years. He looks up to directors like the Cohen Brothers, David Fincher, and Mark Romanek, who all contain a sense of mystery and foreboding in their styles. Director Denis Villeneuve tops the list for Bauer however, as he appreciates the storytelling in both Villeneuve's full length and short films.

"I always look for a good story and a good script because it doesn't matter how slick your visuals are, if it doesn't have a good story it's not going to work," says Bauer, who served as Programming Director for Tally Shorts for five years. "When we are watching the films, we have a group of 20 people rate it for story, technical ability, and overall entertainment value. If it has a weak story that is the fastest thing that will prevent it from being chosen."

To spur his own imaginative juices, Bauer will put on a pair of headphones and listen to music, frequently the band Sigur Ros. He views ideas as floating around us, and all it takes are these moments of stillness and meditation to be able to catch one as it passes by.

He captured the concept for his short film "Lucky Break" in 2010. The quirky tale of a fortune cookie that could predict the future follows along the lines of shows like "The Twilight Zone" and "Black Mirror," both favorites of Bauer, and won awards at the Florida Panhandle Film Festival, Synerfest Film Festival, and the Black Hills Film Festival.



## Tally Shorts Film Festival continues to grow....

*continued*

He's most proud of his most recent short film, however, "Specimen 0625c" which follows a girl who is abducted by aliens and must run like a lab rat in a maze with a complete stranger. Bauer crafted an eerie plot to keep audiences guessing, and was grateful to have found a dedicated crew — another scarce resource in the world of short film.

"When I watch it now I'm impressed we pulled it off," remarks Bauer. "Every day after work, there were six or seven of us that went to the warehouse and built the set by hand for a month and a half. They did that for free, for the love of filmmaking. Finding those people is a significant challenge but also inspiring when you do."

As Marketing Director of this year's Tally Shorts Film Festival, Bauer is most looking forward to seeing the films for the first time as an attendee. He says the opening night block of films is perfect for anyone looking to get a taste of the best of Tally Shorts, as it will feature a film from every genre.

On Saturday, a kid-friendly block will kick off the day, and later a meet and greet with professionals from all different parts of filmmaking, writing, production, costume design, will provide an opportunity for networking.

Introducing a new element to the weekend, Bauer is also excited for the Friday education panel on "The Importance of Short Film," which will bring together expert and visiting filmmakers to discuss the impact short films can have.

"If you can tell a really convincing story in 25 minutes or less then you've got what it takes," states Bauer, whose advice to budding filmmakers is as succinct as his films. "Keep it short."

## TCC Hall of Fame welcomes Pam Butler

TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT (SPONSORED STORIES)

Local business leader Pam Butler has been inducted into the TCC Alumni and Friends Hall of Fame. Pam is the chair and founder of Aegis Business Technologies, a managed services provider to small- and medium-sized businesses for 20 years.

Pam graduated from TCC in 1977 and went on to graduate with a bachelor's degree in Management Information Systems from Florida State University. Coming from a high school Gadsden County with a graduating class of 41, TCC was the perfect fit for her. "There was no way I would have survived on a big campus. It was an extremely important transition for me and for my high school classmates."

Pam recently completed two terms as president of the Tallahassee Community College Foundation Board of Directors. She has also served as a member of the Finance & Investment Committee, the Audit Committee and the Executive Committee. Pam was the lead board volunteer for the Foundation's TCC. WE RISE. campaign, which raised a historic \$14.4 million in 2016.

Pam is a long-time member of the TCC President's Circle and has donated funds to provide scholarships and program support for the TCC Gadsden Center. Aegis has also underwritten the cost to renovate the Aegis Business Technologies Classroom on the main campus of TCC.

Pam has been involved in numerous community projects and boards. Currently she serves as chair of the Audit Committee for the First Commerce Credit Union board and a member of the Audit Committee for the City of Tallahassee. She is the treasurer of the Tallahassee Symphony Orchestra and serves on the boards of the Razoo Foundation and the software company VR Systems.

We are proud to call Pam Butler a TCC alum, and welcome her to the Hall of Fame.

## TCC to offer course on Mental Health First Aid

TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT (CAMPUS NOTES)

TCC will offer a course in Mental Health First Aid for community members on Friday, Feb. 9, in the Center for Workforce Development on TCC's main campus.

Participants will learn a five-step action plan to help loved ones, colleagues, neighbors and others cope with mental health or substance use problems until professional treatment can be obtained or the crisis is resolved.

Those who complete the requirements will be eligible to receive certification from Mental Health First Aid USA. The course is approved to provide eight Continuing Education Units for various professions.

The one-day course is taught by Jennifer Barr, a licensed clinical social worker and TCC's director of student services. Cost is \$69, and registration is limited to 25 individuals.

## TCC's Karen Moore named Trustee of the Year

TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT (CAMPUS NOTES)

TCC Trustee Karen Moore was unanimously selected as Trustee of the Year by the Association of Florida Colleges Trustees Commission at that body's annual legislative conference in Tallahassee.

Moore is the founder and CEO of Moore Communications Group, a national public relations and advertising firm. She has been a TCC trustee since 2007 and served as board chair in 2009-10. Moore previously served as president of the TCC Foundation Board of Directors and chaired both of the College's comprehensive campaigns, which secured more than \$23 million to support student scholarships and facilities upgrades.

## Business giant Darrell Freeman to share “rags to riches” story

TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT (CAMPUS NOTES)

A Nashville entrepreneur who built a \$38 million information technology company from the ground up will share his insights in a presentation sponsored by TCC and the Big Bend Minority Chamber of Commerce, an advocacy organization for minority-owned businesses in the region.

Darrell Freeman, the founder of Zycron, will speak about his experiences Tuesday, Feb. 20, from 8:30 to 10 a.m. at TCC’s Center for Innovation. “Rags to Riches: The American Dream in 60 Minutes” is a lecture offering under the flagship of TCC Spark, the College’s entrepreneurship initiative.

Freeman’s talk costs \$20 for the general public and \$10 for students. Tickets are available at [darrellfreeman.eventbrite.com](http://darrellfreeman.eventbrite.com). Seating is limited and registration is required.

TCC’s Center for Innovation is located in the former Mary Brogan Museum at 300 W. Pensacola St.

For information, contact TCC’s Workforce Development Division at 201-8760 or [workforce@tcc.fl.edu](mailto:workforce@tcc.fl.edu).

## TCC investigating alleged racist post by student

WTXL

Tallahassee Community College says they’re looking into an alleged racist post on a student’s personal social media account.

School administrators say the original post consisted of a series of racial slurs and offensive language.

They’ve notified the student conduct office.

While they know whose account it is, they have to make sure the account was not hacked or tampered with by a third party.

TCC tweeted, saying they are committed to equality, diversity and inclusion.

## Tallahassee Classical School: Proposed charter school hopes to focus on literacy, language

WTXL

In recent years it seems that more and more emphasis is being placed on the STEM fields in schools, but a new proposed charter school could reverse that trend in Leon county.

Science, technology, engineering and math make up the STEM field disciplines, and it's something that has seen a lot of growth and interest in the past several years.

**"You have seen a real increase in the number of STEM programming," says Anthony Jones, the Dean of Science and Mathematics at Tallahassee Community College. "Here at the college, we support the STEM programming by actually having a STEM center."**

There are many benefits surrounding STEM based learning, but the co-founders of Tallahassee Classical School say there are just as many positive outcomes from studying a classical curriculum.

"We love how the children are able to grasp a lot more information and are able to rise to the challenge when they are challenged and when there are high expectations," explains Jana Sayler, the co-founder and board chair of Tallahassee Classical School.

The literacy skills taught to students at a young age serve as the foundation for critical thinking which will later help them lead Socratic seminars when they reach the high school levels.

"Instead of having a teacher stand and deliver in high school, students are grappling with texts and primary resources," says Adrienne Campbell, the co-founder of Tallahassee Classical School. "They are speaking to each other and having almost like a seminar together to learn material."

Sayler and Campbell are still planning to teach students math and science, but with a heavy focus on language and literature skills.

"In order for us to learn science, and in order for us to learn math well, we do it through language," continues Campbell. "That focus helps us be able to read and explore those subjects even better.

Before Sayler and Campbell can pick a location for the school, they first must apply for a charter in Leon County on February 1st. If accepted, they plan to open for classes in the fall of 2019.

The school will be open to kindergartners through 8th grade for the first year, but Tallahassee Classical School hopes to grow to k-12.

While the first semester is over a year away, Tallahassee Classical School is accepting letters of interest. These letters are not a commitment for enrolling students.

The online interest form can be found here: Tallahassee Classical School

You can also find the school on facebook: [facebook.com/TLHclassical](https://www.facebook.com/TLHclassical)



## TCC to unveil African-American History Calendar

GADSDEN COUNTY TIMES/HAVANA HERALD

Tallahassee Community College will unveil the 18th annual Cherry Hall Alexander African-American History Calendar on Monday, January 29, in a special presentation to begin at 6 p.m. in Turner Auditorium in TCC's Fine and Performing Arts Center.

The theme of this year's calendar is "African-Americans in Times of War" and will honor the African-American women and men who serve or have served in the U.S. military.

The celebration will be hosted by Joe Bullard, popular radio disc jockey and program director at Cumulus Broadcasting. The guest speaker will be Wilson Barnes, a retired U.S. Army colonel with a 29-year military career. Barnes holds the Bronze Star medal, Defense Superior Service medal and National Defense Service medal. He was the marshal of the Florida Supreme Court from 1990 to 2005.

Attendees will be entertained by young musicians from Javacya Arts Conservatory. The invocation will be given by the Rev. Julius McAllister Jr., senior minister of Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church.

This event is free and open to the public.

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(NOTE: Item also appeared in the Tallahassee Democrat's Campus Notes section on Monday, January 29.)

## TCC's Karen Moore named Florida's Trustee of the Year

TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT (SPONSORED STORIES)

Tallahassee Community College Trustee Karen Moore was unanimously selected as Trustee of the Year by the Association of Florida Colleges Trustees Commission.

Moore is the founder and CEO of Moore Communications Group, a national public relations and advertising firm. She has been a TCC trustee since 2007 and served as board chair in 2009-10. Moore previously served as president of the TCC Foundation Board of Directors and chaired both of the College's comprehensive campaigns, which secured more than \$23 million to support student scholarships and facilities upgrades.

"It is a true privilege to be a TCC trustee," said Moore. "What is being accomplished by our college is changing lives, creating jobs and enhancing the quality of life for our community. I am so honored to receive this award."

Moore currently serves as chair of the Association of Florida Colleges Trustees Commission, leading her fellow community college and state college trustees across Florida. She is also chair-elect of the Florida College System Foundation. The Foundation supports the mission of the FCS and advances its initiatives statewide. Each year, the Florida College System Foundation awards more than \$1 million in scholarships to deserving students across the state.

According to TCC President Jim Murdaugh, Moore is known for her passion for expanding access to higher education. The Richard W. & Karen B. Moore Veterans Success Center at TCC was named in honor of Moore and her husband, who are also founders of the Moore Veterans Leadership Academy, which helps veterans succeed in college and in the workforce.

In February, Moore received the Bill Franklin Volunteer of the Year Award from District III of the Council for Advancement and Support of Education. The award recognized her efforts on behalf of TCC as a trustee, supporter and advocate. Moore also gave the closing keynote address, titled "Unlock Your Advocacy Success," at the national Conference for Community College Advancement.

## **TCC unveils 18th annual African-American History Calendar**

**LANETRA BENNETT**  
WCTV

It's here; the 18th annual Cherry Hall Alexander African-American History Calendar.

The calendar was unveiled Monday night at a special ceremony at Tallahassee Community College.

The theme of this year's calendar is "African-Americans in Times of War." It honors the African-American women and men who serve or have served in the U.S. military.

"It helps me to inspire and mentor the younger generations of veterans to do the best that they can do in moving forward, equal opportunity and fairness in the military, and the readiness of the military," said Army Veteran Col. Wilson Barnes.

Col. Barnes was the keynote speaker and one of the honorees featured in the calendar.

All of the honorees were recognized during the ceremony.

Anyone who would like a free calendar can call 850-201-6070.

## **TCC unveils 18th annual African-American History Calendar**

WTXL

Tallahassee Community College unveiled its yearly African American History Calendar on Monday.

This is the 18th year of the calendar, and it celebrates local members of the black community who have been outstanding service members.

The calendar honorees include Airman Robert Butler and Colonel Ronald Joe.

Speaker Wilson Barnes notes black history is important every month, not just in February.

## House approves changing community college names

NEWS4JAX.COM

The House on Wednesday unanimously approved changing the names of Florida Keys Community College and North Florida Community College.

The proposal (HB 619), sponsored by Rep. Holly Raschein, R-Key Largo, and Rep. Jeanette Nunez, R-Miami, would rename the schools as The College of the Florida Keys and North Florida College.

It would leave only two institutions in the state --- Tallahassee Community College and Hillsborough Community College --- continuing to use the traditional "community college" label.

North Florida Community College, which is based in Madison, serves students in Hamilton, Jefferson, Lafayette, Madison, Suwannee and Taylor counties.

A Senate version of the bill (SB 946), filed by Sen. Anitere Flores, R-Miami, has not started moving through committees.

## Black History Month events planned for FSU, FAMU and TCC

BYRON DOBSON  
TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT

An assortment of events held in observance of Black History Month are scheduled at Florida State, Florida A&M and Tallahassee Community College.

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Tallahassee Community College

On Feb. 13, the Florida Public Safety Institute at Tallahassee Community College is hosting its 11th Annual Black History Month Breakfast, beginning at 8:30 a.m.

The event is to celebrate criminal justice employees, but is open to the public.

Guest speaker is veteran corrections administrator, Edward Griffin, who will discuss his experiences working in corrections.

For more information, or to R.S.V.P, please email Gigi Hawthorne at hawthorg@tcc.fl.edu.

“A Town Divided,” will be presented at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. in Turner Auditorium.

The 50-minute one-act play is written from interviews with and stories of Tallahassee residents. The TCC-sponsored production invites participants to examine their own biases and prejudices in an effort to raise social awareness, increase tolerance and bridge divides through cross-racial dialogue.

The afternoon performance will be followed by a community talk-back moderated by Barby Moro, chief operating officer of the Village Square. Panelists include Rabbi Jack Romberg of Temple Israel, TCC professors Cicely Brantley and Kermit Harrison, Tallahassee City Commissioner Curtis Richardson, Leon County Commissioner Kristin Dozier, and Leon County Sheriff Walt McNeil. Writers and directors Phil Croton, Bert Mitchell and Marcus Nicolas will also participate.

The evening performance will be followed by “A Town United,” which will feature readings of five sonnets from each of four area high schools. Within each of those schools, Sonnet Man (portrayed by hip-hop artist Devon Glover) is conducting a sonnet-writing workshop, helping students to create their own sonnets reflecting their lives and living in Tallahassee.

To purchase tickets, visit <http://southernshakespearefestival.org/a-town-divided>. For information, contact Laura W. Johnson, Southern Shakespeare Company executive director, at [laura@southernshakes.org](mailto:laura@southernshakes.org).

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(NOTE: Item truncated for reference to TCC.)

## Millennials flock to nursing at twice the rate of baby boomers

SHARI RUDAVSKY

ATLANTA JOURNAL-CONSTITUTION

Millennials are saving the nursing profession. Facing a potential shortage due to baby boomers retiring, nursing has welcomed an unexpected surge of millennials entering the field.

Those millennials are nearly twice as likely to be nurses as their grandparents' generation, the baby boomers, a recent Health Affairs study found. This trend has averted a potential workforce crisis and has implications for the future of nursing, said David Auerbach, one of the authors of the study.

"Definitely the composition of the workforce is shifting. In just a few years there will be more millennials than baby boomers in the nursing workforce," he said.

**Ashley Dasko, 25, is one of those millennials. In high school, she had no interest in nursing and she initially majored in political science at Florida State University.**

**But the subject just didn't engage her so she decided to audit a biology class and fell in love with the subject. She enrolled at Tallahassee Community College, where she earned an associate's degree in nursing.**

**Now, she plans to earn a bachelor's degree from the Indiana University School of Nursing and eventually become a nurse practitioner. For the past eight months, she's been working at IU Health Methodist Hospital as a surgical trauma nurse and loves her job.**

**"I wanted to start somewhere where I could see everything," she said. "This is a good place to see a little bit of everything."**

Across the country, hospitals are seeing more nursing job applicants like Dasko — and they're embracing them, hiring them to fill positions vacated by retiring baby boomers.

"We're really seeing an influx of millennial nurses into our workforce," said Lisa Sparks, chief nursing officer at IU Health West Hospital in Avon, Indianapolis. "I would say it's been the most noticeable over the last 18 to 24 months."

Experts point to a number of reasons millennials are opting for nursing careers. Nursing schools have almost doubled enrollment in the past decade to help train a replacement workforce for the many nurses who will soon reach retirement age.

Nursing fills the void that the decline in manufacturing jobs created and offers steady, reliable work, Auerbach said. Healthcare also appeals to millennials' desire to do meaningful work that allows them to contribute to society. Finally, nursing careers come in many shapes and sizes and offer a flexibility many other fields lack.

"There's not going to be any one simple explanation," said Auerbach, an affiliate of the Center for Interdisciplinary Health Workforce Studies at Montana State University. "It's probably going to be a combination of things."

As a child, Ryan Page, 24, had no doubts he wanted to go into healthcare in the footsteps of his mother, an IU Health nurse. For a while, he wavered between medicine and nursing.

By the time he graduated from high school, however, he had settled on nursing and went to Ball State University where he earned a B.S.N. degree.

"It made better financial and personal sense for me to go to nursing school," said Page, a Westside resident. "I personally didn't want to stay in school for eight years straight. I wanted to start my life earlier rather than later."

For the past two and a half years, Page has worked on a cardiovascular unit. He's working on a master's in health systems leadership at the University of Indianapolis and aspires one day to be a clinical unit manager.

Hospitals do have to make some changes to accommodate this new type of worker. Indiana's IU Health, which has about 6,000 nurses throughout its hospital system, has developed an experiential transition of practice program to help new nurses adjust, Gilbert said.

IU Health has also discovered that credentials matter to many young job applicants. Often they will ask whether a hospital has magnet designation, something fewer than 4 percent of hospitals have.



## Millennials flock to nursing at twice the rate of baby boomers....

*continued*

Prospective nurses also look for flexibility, in terms of job schedules and the environment in which they work, Sparks said. Other generations may have stayed in one job for years, Gilbert said; this generation prefers to try new things.

"The adaptability piece is key," Sparks said. "That's one of the benefits that we offer as a system, because there's a lot of opportunity to move through our different hospitals, or even our different service lines or units. That's very appealing to this generation."

Not only do younger nurses learn from their older colleagues, they may also teach the veterans some new skills, particularly in the area of technology.

Older nurses may also find themselves in some situations being mentored by or reporting to a millennial. Some days, Page serves as a charge nurse, which means he can find himself as the manager to nurses who have far more years of experience than he.

Although Page has such a youthful appearance that patients sometimes question how he's old enough to be a nurse, he said, there's nothing awkward about overseeing colleagues his parents' age and beyond.

"A couple of them have been nurses longer than I have been alive, and they're a wonderful asset to have on our team," he said.

Those seasoned nurses helped Kathryn Johnson, 24, find her way to nursing. When she started at Indiana University, she was interested in medicine but nursing was not on her radar. Then when she was a junior, her father was diagnosed with cancer.

Strangers to medicine, her family started spending a lot of time in the hospital. Throughout her father's illness, that eventually took his life, her family turned again and again to the nursing staff.

"After the whole rollercoaster of everything that happened, I was able to look back and had a lot of respect and awe for the nurses," Johnson said.

After earning a biology degree from Indiana University, Johnson attended an accelerated bachelor of nursing program and for the past six months, she has worked as an emergency room nurse, a job, which she said, she just loves.

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(NOTE: This story was originally posted by the Indianapolis Star on Friday, January 5, and was subsequently published by over 100 additional newspapers and websites, resulting in nearly 50 million total media impressions according to monitoring services. A comprehensive list of these publications with dates and approximate potential reach is available by request from the Communications & Marketing Office.)

## Tallahassee man attacks TCC student from behind

WTXL

A Tallahassee man was arrested after security cameras at Tallahassee Community College caught him coming up behind a student and striking him in the head twice with his fists.

Nitravian Letreal Henderson, 26, remained in the Leon County Detention Center on Monday on charges that include battery causing bodily harm and trespass after warning. Booked into jail Saturday, he was held on a \$1,750 bond.

In an unprovoked attack, Henderson approached the TCC student from behind and punched him on Jan. 25, 2018, according to a probable cause affidavit. The incident occurred in the TCC English building about 7 p.m. and was captured on campus security cameras and seen by a witness.

When the attack occurred, Henderson had been under a trespass warning issued on Oct. 3, 2017, not to enter the campus, a TCC Police Department investigator wrote.

Henderson, after waiving his right to remain silent, told the TCC investigator in an interview on Jan. 29, 2018, that he committed the battery after feeling threatened by the victim.

Henderson said he entered the TCC building to drink water from the fountain when he was threatened by a male and left the building.

Henderson said he eventually returned to the building and saw another male leaving a classroom and that male also made a comment that caused him to feel threatened.

In response, Henderson said, he came up behind the man and hit him twice in the head, and the victim did not retaliate.

"The video evidence showed the attack from behind without any provocation or warning to the victim," the investigator wrote.

## Man arrested following attack on TCC's campus

FLETCHER KEEL  
WCTV

The Tallahassee Community College Police Department has arrested a man following an incident on campus on January 25.

TCCPD arrested 25-year-old Nitravian Henderson on charges of battery and trespassing after warning.

According to police documents, Henderson punched a male victim in the head twice from behind, unprovoked, in the English building. The victim told police he did not know Henderson, and police records say a female witness reported a similar account.

Police say Henderson admitted to the incident, saying he was upset over a previous threat made by another student.

TCCPD says Henderson was in violation of a trespass warning that was issued on October 3, 2017, which remains in effect until the end of 2018.

Henderson is being held in the Leon County Detention Facility on \$1,750 bond.

## Florida State receives record-breaking number of admissions applications

AMY FARNUM-PATRONIS

FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY NEWS

The demand for a Florida State University education is on the rise with a record number of first-year applicants seeking admission.

Florida State received more than 48,000 first-year applications for admission to the 2018 summer and fall semesters before the first round of decisions that were released January 25.

That number is already ahead of last year's record total of 41,411 applications for first-year admission to the Tallahassee campus. This year's total is expected to surpass more than 50,000 applications as prospective students still have until the Feb. 7 final deadline to apply. The final round of decisions for first-year applicants will be announced March 29.

"The tremendous interest in Florida State University reflects our growing national prominence," said President John Thrasher. "Word is out that FSU offers the education of a top research institution in a warm, welcoming and diverse academic environment."

Over the past two years, Florida State has moved up 10 places in the U.S. News & World Report Best Colleges rankings. FSU is currently No. 33 among national public universities and boasts several Top 20 academic programs.

"FSU is a destination university where student success always has been and continues to be at the core of who we are," said Hege Ferguson, director of admissions. "Students want to be a part of that experience."

As more and more highly talented students enroll at Florida State, the university's graduation and freshman retention rates also continue to soar. FSU's freshman retention rate in 2017 ranks among the Top 15 public universities in the country.

It's not just the number of applications that is increasing — the caliber of the applicants is, too. The middle 50 percent of accepted students for the fall semester had a grade point average in the range of 4.1-4.5 with a 1290-1400 total SAT score and 28-32 ACT composite score.

"We have an exceptionally strong applicant pool this year," Ferguson said. "It is a daunting task selecting students from such a large and strong applicant pool, but in the end, it is about finding the right fit for the student and our university."

**While FSU is not able to admit everyone who wants to begin their first year at the main campus, the university has expanded opportunities for admission through the Seminole Pathways Program and the TCC2FSU Program.**

**Students selected for the Seminole Pathways Program are given four options of admission to Florida State, including beginning their studies at the FSU Panama City campus or at one of FSU's study centers abroad. The TCC2FSU Program offers students a pathway to FSU upon earning an associate degree at Tallahassee Community College.**

Students with admission notices have until May 1 to confirm whether they will enroll. FSU expects to enroll about 6,200 freshmen in the Class of 2022.

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(NOTE: Item also appeared in the FSView newspaper on Sunday, February 11.)

## TCC to host entrepreneurial boot camp

GADSDEN COUNTY TIMES

Tallahassee Community College's entrepreneurial initiative, TCC Spark!, will offer a hands-on, day-long Entrepreneurial Boot Camp at the TCC Gadsden Center and TCC Wakulla Center for individuals with an interest in starting or growing their own business.

The camp will encourage the development of an entrepreneurial mindset through motivational and strategy-focused discussions and activities. Each event will culminate in a business pitch session, similar to those seen on the ABC program "Shark Tank."

The Gadsden Center camp will take place Friday, February 23, while the Wakulla Center session is scheduled for Friday, March 9. Both sessions will run from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The camp costs \$75 to attend. Registration for the Gadsden Center camp is open at [gadsdenebootcamp-f18.eventbrite.com](http://gadsdenebootcamp-f18.eventbrite.com). Registration for the Wakulla Center camp is open at [wakullabootcamp-m18.eventbrite.com](http://wakullabootcamp-m18.eventbrite.com).

Interested individuals may contact the Gadsden Center at (850) 558-3620 or [GadsdenCenter@tcc.fl.edu](mailto:GadsdenCenter@tcc.fl.edu), or the Wakulla Center at (850) 558-3525 or [WakullaCenter@tcc.fl.edu](mailto:WakullaCenter@tcc.fl.edu) for further details.

The TCC Gadsden Center is located at 223 Pat Thomas Parkway in downtown Quincy. The TCC Wakulla Center is located at 2932 Crawfordville Highway in Crawfordville.

For information, contact Rick Paul at (850) 201-9438 or [paulric@tcc.fl.edu](mailto:paulric@tcc.fl.edu).

## TCC's Karen Moore named Trustee of the Year

GADSDEN COUNTY TIMES

Tallahassee Community College Trustee Karen Moore was unanimously selected as Trustee of the Year by the Association of Florida Colleges Trustees Commission at that body's annual legislative conference in Tallahassee today.

Moore is the founder and CEO of Moore Communications Group, a national public relations and advertising firm. She has been a TCC trustee since 2007 and served as board chair in 2009-10. Moore previously served as president of the TCC Foundation Board of Directors and chaired both of the College's comprehensive campaigns, which secured more than \$23 million to support student scholarships and facilities upgrades.

"It is a true privilege to be a TCC trustee," said Moore. "What is being accomplished by our college is changing lives, creating jobs and enhancing the quality of life for our community. I am so honored to receive this award."

Moore currently serves as chair of the Association of Florida Colleges Trustees Commission, leading her fellow community college and state college trustees across Florida. She is also chair-elect of the Florida College System Foundation. The Foundation supports the mission of the FCS and advances its initiatives statewide. Each year, the Florida College System Foundation awards more than \$1 million in scholarships to deserving students across the state.

In February, Moore received the Bill Franklin Volunteer of the Year Award from District III of the Council for Advancement and Support of Education. The award recognized her efforts on behalf of TCC as a trustee, supporter, fundraiser and advocate.

## New face vying for School Board District 5 seat

RYAN DAILEY

TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT

A new face has entered the race for School Board District 5, which has been held by incumbent Georgia "Joy" Bowen for the past 20 years.

Bowen filed for re-election Jan. 23. The 2018 election will be the sixth time Bowen, a retired Florida State University administrator, has run to represent her district. She was first elected in 1998 to represent District 5 and later re-elected in 2002, 2006, 2010 and 2014.

Marcus Nicolas, a 36-year-old administrator overseeing academic partnerships at Tallahassee Community College and former teacher at Godby High School, said he sees a "need" in District 5 that prompted his first foray into politics. He has been working in schools for the past decade.

"I have to say this – I'm not a politician, I'm an educator," Nicolas said. "For the past 10 years in district 5, there has been a need for change."

Nicolas said he was shocked to find out "nearly 30 percent of minorities are walking the streets of Leon County without a high school diploma."

Nicolas said his experience in policy, he holds a master's degree in educational policy and curriculum development, puts him in a prime position to work to improve such troubling statistics.

"It's not until you start working with policy when you figure out, here's how we can affect change and here's the confines we are dealing with," Nicolas said.

During his time at TCC, Nicolas said he has been a driving force to "develop and foster a number of partnerships that have helped (area high schools), Godby specifically."

One such program he described is TCC's Academic Bridge program, which looks at graduating seniors who struggled in math, and offers them a summer refresher course.

Nicolas added he aims to address the issue of teacher retention in Leon County Schools, particularly those in District 5.

"I think (Bowen's) 20 years should be honored for her service, but progress is needed — a new vision, new direction," Nicolas said.

Maggie Lewis Butler, the board's current vice-chair who serves District 3, filed Tuesday to run for re-election to the seat. Lewis-Butler is the only school board member who has served on the board longer than Bowen, having first been elected in 1996.



## With millions at stake, city, county, university officials assess legislative session

At the session's halfway mark, officials watch to see what lawmakers will leave in and take out of the 2018 spending plan

JAMES CALL

TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT

**A day after the Florida House and Senate approved competing budget proposals for next year, representatives from the city of Tallahassee, Leon County and local colleges and universities convened Friday to survey the damage.**

**Tens of millions of dollars in local projects and improvements at Florida A&M University, Florida State University and Tallahassee Community College are at stake.**

Jeff Sharkey of the Capitol Alliance Group represents Leon's interests at the Legislature. He told the group of eight officials sitting at a roundtable and the handful of citizens in the audience that the fate of those projects will be decided by month end.

Lawmakers plan to spend more than \$87 billion, but there's a \$100 million-dollar difference between the House and Senate plans. Although the two chambers spend nearly the same amount of money, they do so in different ways.

On education, for example, the House priority appears to be the pre-k 12 system, while the Senate focuses on higher education.

"It is going to be very competitive as budget talks move into the negotiations process over the next two weeks," said Sharkey.

Sharkey and his team will work closely with the city lobbyists and those from the universities as local interests intersect in the committee rooms.

**TCC and other colleges are keeping a close eye on SB 540. It would impose new rules on the colleges' direct support organization and tie funding to graduation rates of former students who go on to pursue a bachelor's degree at another institution.**

**Opponents say the proposal is a solution looking for a problem. Scott Balog of TCC said the colleges feel like they are being used as a bargaining chip in the House and Senate negotiations.**

This session a major issue local government lobbyists have spent time on is preemption of home rule, Sharkey told the group. The House teed up 17 proposals to overrule city and county ordinances on a variety of issues. Many dealt with open carry rules, but there are also proposals to curb local tree-trimming and vacation-rental regulations, and decisions on how to spend tourism development tax dollars.

"There's a joke circulating in the Capitol that there will be a bill to preempt local governments on which toilet paper can be used in local public restrooms," deadpanned Sharkey. "It shows the absurdity of all this."

The session is scheduled to end March 9.

## State preemption bills draw fire

TOM FLANIGAN  
WFSU

The power struggle between the Florida Legislature and the state's local governments continues. That was obvious during Friday morning's (2/9) meeting in the Leon County Commission Chambers.

That meeting included, not only county officials, but also representatives from the City of Tallahassee, Florida State University, [Tallahassee Community College](#), Tallahassee Memorial Hospital and several others. All, including County Commission Chair Nick Maddox, criticized the Legislature for trying to strip local governments of their traditional power to make local decisions.

"We'd just like the state to consider that we're doing a good job. Every place is not the same and the things we do in Leon County are much different than the things that they're doing down in Miami/Dade. There's no way we can do what they do and no way they can do what we do," Maddox insisted after the meeting.

Still, state lawmakers are now considering a total of 17 local preemption bills. They would impose statewide uniformity on everything from regulating vacation rentals to tree trimming standards.

## Chief Chris Summers selected for TCC Hall of Fame

TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT (SPONSORED STORIES)

Congratulations to Tallahassee Community College alum Chris Summers who has recently been inducted into the Alumni and Friends Hall of Fame.

After earning an Associate in Arts from TCC and a Bachelor of Science from Florida State University, Summers began his career in public service as a police officer with FSU in 1985. In 1987, he joined the Tallahassee Police Department, where he would serve the citizens of Tallahassee for the next 27 years, rising to the rank of captain.

Summers has been able to use his knowledge and experience as an adjunct instructor at TCC's Florida Public Safety Institute in both basic recruit and advanced topic training programs. Additionally, he has been asked to take part in teaching crisis intervention and hostage negotiations to students at the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center in Glynco, Georgia, the Botswana National Police and the Turkish National Police.

In January of 2014, Summers returned to TCC to serve as the College's chief of police. During his tenure with TCCPD, he increased the level of interaction between his department's members and the TCC community. Summers represented TCC as an advisory board member for the Florida Missing and Exploited Persons Information Clearinghouse and the Smart Justice Alliance. He also served as an advisory board member for the Apalachee Center's FACT Team and the Leon County Public Safety Coordinating Council.

In January 2017 Sheriff Walt McNeil offered Summers the opportunity to join his command staff, serving as the chief of the Department of Law Enforcement at the Leon County Sheriff's Office where he oversees the Uniformed Patrol Division, Specialized Response Teams such as SWAT, Hostage Negotiations, Aviation and the Traffic Unit.

Summers continues his association with TCC by staying active with the TCC Alumni and Friends Association and the TCC President's Circle. We are proud to call Chief Chris Summers a TCC alum, and now a member of the Hall of Fame!

# TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2018 ■ TALLAHASSEE.COM

PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK



## Taking life by the wheel

Homeless student gets traction in TCC program

Byron Dobson Tallahassee Democrat | USA TODAY NETWORK - FLORIDA

**M**ost of his adult life, Eugene Cuff was the kind of guy people could count on to show up for day labor jobs. Nothing that would give Cuff advancement, just the kind of work that would keep a roof over his head and food on the table.

But in the last six months, the nomadic Miami native has caught some traction. He enrolled in the Tallahassee Community College's Commercial Vehicle Driving Program, an initiative that might at long last give him the training and stability he has craved all his life.

Thomas Paul, lead instructor for the program, said it's obvious Cuff is highly motivated. He could always count on him to be waiting when he arrived.

"I get there a little after 7 and every morning when I'd pull in, he'd be there, ready to go," Paul said with a hint of admiration.

"He always told us, 'I'm working toward tomorrow, working toward the future.'"

At 56, Cuff finally is able to believe his own words.

See [DRIVING](#), Page 7A

Eugene Cuff, recently earned his CDL from TCC. He's now enrolled in classes, while living at the Kearney Center. JUSTIN ADAMS/TCC

**Online**  
See more photos of Eugene Cuff and learn more about TCC's Commercial Vehicle Driving Program at [tallahassee.com](http://tallahassee.com).

## Contractor recruiting minority-owned firms for project at FAMU

Byron Dobson Tallahassee Democrat | USA TODAY NETWORK - FLORIDA

Fencing was erected a few weeks ago next to Gailher Gymnasium, indicating construction of the much-anticipated student services building at Florida A&M is starting.

The first phase, involving underground utility work, is underway. A construction trailer is expected to arrive this week, with underground utility materials expected the week of Feb. 19. And, the planned \$27 million, three-story, 73,000-square-foot complex will be providing plenty of jobs to reach its estimated completion date of fall 2019.

See [FAMU](#), Page 2A



## FSU women roar past Miami 91-71 behind Woolfolk

SPORTS, 1D

## Taking life by the wheel

### Homeless student gets traction in TCC program

BYRON DOBSON

TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT

For most of his adult life, Eugene Cuff was the kind of guy people could count on to show up for day labor jobs. Nothing that would give Cuff advancement, just the kind of work that would keep a roof over his head and food on the table.

But in the last six months, the nomadic Miami native has caught some traction. He enrolled in the Tallahassee Community College's Commercial Vehicle Driving Program, an initiative that might at long last give him the training and stability he has craved all his life.

Thomas Paul, lead instructor for the program, said it's obvious Cuff is highly motivated. He could always count on him to be waiting when he arrived.

"I get there a little after 7 and every morning when I'd pull in, he'd be there, ready to go," Paul said with a hint of admiration.

"He always told us, 'I'm working toward tomorrow; working toward the future.'

At 56, Cuff finally is able to believe his own words.

"I can finally say I'm a professional," said Cuff, who was awarded his commercial driver's license in January. "There are a lot of things I've tried and I wasn't successful. It's an awesome feeling to be successful."

It hasn't always been that way.

He's endured times when he didn't know what challenge the next morning would bring. After working aimlessly in warehouse and day labor jobs from Jacksonville to Atlanta to Los Angeles, he wanted to find the opposite of despair.

Cuff arrived in Tallahassee last June from St. Louis, his port-of-call for the past 12 years, after leaving the West Coast.

In Los Angeles, he said, "I saw a million people going nowhere. I would have made a million and one."

His goal last summer was to reach Jacksonville.

"I didn't pick Tallahassee, but my money did," Cuff said, forging a laugh in light of his reality at the downtown Greyhound station. "I didn't have a dollar."

But he got lucky.

After he met a man who told him about the Kearney Center, Cuff made his way to the West Pensacola Street location.

"I never had to sleep on the streets of Tallahassee," he said, sitting inside a study room at the center. Just beyond the doors, a lobby filled with people gathers.

Staff at the center – which employs a holistic approach to getting men and women back on their feet – helped Cuff figure out a way forward. He got an I.D. card, Social Security card, birth certificate – and most importantly, support.

"All from the Kearney Center," he said. "That's how I got into TCC, with those credentials."

Chuck White, who oversees operations and partnerships with agencies, suggested the commercial driving program, and with White's help, he was given a chance. His tuition was covered through a state law that allows tuition waivers for the homeless.

By October, he was enrolled in the eight-week program, with classes 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.

"I would leave the Kearney Center and walk to school," he said of the trek to TCC's Transportation and Logistics Center of Excellence at Appleyard and West Tennessee.

"I would be in class all day," he proudly said. "It was nice to get out. It was all work. It wasn't fun and games. When class was done, I would walk back to the center."

#### ----- Putting a face on TCC's mission

Cuff exemplifies a component of TCC's ability to provide job-skills training through its Workforce Development division. The college offers nearly 50 certificate programs that can lead to decent paying jobs.



## Taking life by the wheel....

*continued*

Since its inception in 2016, 27 students have completed the commercial vehicle driving program, said Jessica Griffin, coordinator. The CDL Class A certification is required to drive 18-wheelers.

Tuition and study materials cost \$2,400.

TCC has made a \$127,000 investment so far this fiscal year in educating students who are homeless, spokesman Al Moran said. During the seven-month period from July 1, 2017 and February 5, 2018, individuals who are homeless have attended classes and training programs at TCC that amount to more than 1,100 combined credit and non-credit hours of education.

"We need to help those members of our community who are in need today, so that they can help others tomorrow," Moran said. "There are some very gifted and talented individuals taking advantage of this educational opportunity, which TCC is proud to be a part of."

TCC partners with local and national trucking companies eagerly looking to hire. The pay is determined by the mileage. Salaries can range between \$45,000 to \$60,000 annually.

"Some students have finished on a Friday and started the next week," Griffin said. TCC provides the training. The Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles administers the test and licensing.

Kimberly Moore, vice president for workforce development, said programs offered are designed to meet an individual where they are and follow a "learn and earn" approach. Programs range from commercial vehicle driving, heating ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) to cyber security that are short, in-demand and lead to a career and not just a job.

"In the case of Eugene, he was dedicated and committed to improving his state in life and his effort paid off through the completion of the training program and earning a credential that will afford him employment opportunities throughout the United States," Moore said.

She invited Cuff to tell his story when TCC's District Board of Trustees meets Feb. 19.

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Homeless, yet hopeful

Earning the CDL was Cuff's first foray into campus life. It isn't his last.

In January, he enrolled in TCC's Health Informatics Specialist certification program, supported by a Pell Grant. He attends classes Monday, Wednesdays and Fridays.

In between classes, he's in the library, brushing up on math and grammar skills. When time permits, he takes advantage of the gym to stay healthy for the over-the-road driving job he hopes to land, while continuing studies online.

Cuff is proud he's the first Kearney resident to complete the CDL program, adding he "never felt stigmatized" in the course.

He wants to use his experience to inspire others at Kearney.

"I have the best of both worlds now," he said. "I have people here of all backgrounds and nationalities and at school, I have people with higher academic levels.

"That's a wonderful thing, because that's where I'm trying to go; a higher educational level."



## Greater Tallahassee area depends on the Florida College System

MARK O'BRYANT

TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT (YOUR TURN)/WAKULLA NEWS

Florida's colleges are indispensable when it comes to directly feeding the workforce of a community. Their willingness to be nimble, working with businesses and industries of all types, is what makes them unique in their ability to respond to the needs surrounding them.

With more than 800,000 students served in the Florida College System, these institutions are committed to providing students an opportunity to further their education in settings that offer a range of programs that fit busy schedules of students juggling multiple responsibilities, many working full time.

We must ensure our state's leaders continue to foster what colleges do so well and not impede their ability to respond to business demands by setting enrollment caps on their workforce baccalaureate programs.

I can attest to the effective process of colleges developing programs that speak directly to the needs of businesses. With a growing need for nursing professionals, Tallahassee Memorial HealthCare is no exception.

In Tallahassee, the nursing vacancy rate is estimated at 10.9 percent and the statewide vacancy rate is 6.8 percent. Some forecasts show Florida will face a nursing shortage by 2025 that could cripple our health care system.

While we are lucky to have such higher education institutions in our backyard, most nursing graduates from Florida State University and Florida A&M University return to their home cities or move to other markets. It became apparent we needed to expand the pool of qualified nursing graduates comprised of individuals from here in our region.

Our longstanding partnership with Tallahassee Community College gave us the opportunity to work toward a viable solution. Going through a rigorous approval process and with the support of the four-year institutions in Tallahassee, TCC was able to start a Bachelor of Science in Nursing program that draws from the area and produces health care professionals that feed our local workforce.

This has been the case throughout Florida with the State Board of Education approving workforce baccalaureate programs at institutions across the Florida College System. This works, and because of them we are seeing stronger local workforces across Florida. Putting caps on the number of students able to enroll could stifle a community's ability to grow its workforce and prevents it from being a viable option for companies to call home.

In its Florida Jobs 2030 report, the Florida Chamber estimates that by 2030, Florida will add six million more residents and will need to create 2 million net new jobs. It goes on to say that technology will lead to the development of new jobs and a shift in the skills and competencies required for existing jobs within the state's economy. To meet future needs we need to think about how to address them now.

This year's legislative session presents Florida's leaders the opportunity to further strengthen an already reputable college system. Legislators must ensure the steps they take are ones that position the colleges to provide the necessary support to their workforce industry partners.

With the next generation of professionals ready to build their futures in our communities, limiting access to education shouldn't even be a consideration.

## **TCC police investigating on-campus robbery**

TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT (IN BRIEF)

Tallahassee Community College police are looking for a man suspected of robbing a student Wednesday in the library bathroom.

The victim was not injured and no weapon was seen, TCC spokesman Al Moran said.

The incident occurred shortly after 3 p.m.

The suspect is a white man, medium height, wearing a black shirt, white shorts and black shoes. It is unknown if he was a TCC student.

Police say he left the campus in a gold Honda Civic, Florida tag: HCWK97.

Anyone with information is asked to call TCC police at 201-6100.

## Chief Glenn Sapp of Quincy among three honored by Florida Public Safety Institute

SANDI BEARE  
HAVANA HERALD

The Florida Public Safety Institute hosted its 11th annual Black History Month Breakfast for Criminal Justice Personnel on Tuesday in HAVana.

Approximately 200-plus people - including law enforcement officers, presenters, honorees and others - gathered to recognize three African Americans in the criminal justice profession who have embraced this year's slogan, "Embracing the Challenges in the World Today."

The meeting opened with a note being read from Florida Senator Bill Nelson giving voice to the challenges being given and today's world and offering his support in all endeavors.

Florida Public Safety Institute Director E.E. Eunice next welcomed everyone and the Mistress of Ceremonies for the morning, Director Kim Allen, then took over the wheel of the celebration.

Among early presenters were Major Roderick Young of the Tallahassee Police Department and the presentation of colors by the Gadsden County High School Army JROTC Color Guard.

In a poignant moment, Captain Stefan Blue of the Florida Department of Agriculture and Trooper Detrick McClellan of the Florida Highway Patrol carried a red-white-and-blue, flower-filled large flag wreath as Lieutenant Adonius Duhart of the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission read off names of the seven Florida officers killed in the line of duty in 2017 - followed by a moment of silence.

Chiquita Kirkland then gave a musical tribute to the event, singing the Negro National Anthem, and Jade Livingston sang America the Beautiful in a beautiful rendition.

Honorees then took central stage to give their versions of how events in their lives have helped them embrace the challenges of today's world.

Warden Edward Griffin of the Hernando Correctional Institute in Brooksville first said he liked to serve others.

Some of his lessons came from his service as a lifeguard and later when his first boss at the Florida Department of Corrections told him he had not been his first or second choice to serve in the position he was hired to and said, "but you're here."

His boss later took him aside after seeing his work ethic and said, "We all make bad mistakes; you should have been my first pick!"

Griffin said, "No matter what challenges you face, you must be based in God. You must face challenges. Don't give in to those negative challenges. I couldn't have dreamed I'd be a warden."

Quincy Police Chief Glenn Sapp quoted Aristotle: "Excellence is not an act but a habit," Sapp said.

Sapp also gave an example of Hernan Cortes, who craved the treasures of the Aztec Empire.

When his men were unsure they wanted to battle, Cortes told them, "Burn the boats!"

The troops realized he meant that they were not taking those ships to get home, but must conquer their enemy to get their ships.

He won the battle.

"What is your excellence?" asked Sapp. "The power of love overcomes all and anything. Plant the seed to be great. None of us are alone," said Chief Sapp.

The final honoree, Gigi Hawthorne, is one of the Florida Public Safety Institute's own as the specialized and advanced instruction coordinator. She has worked with the institute for many years.

Eunice said Hawthorne and her staff have performed miracles in bringing forward about 200 events that have thousands of attendees each year.

The Florida Public Safety Institute was established by Tallahassee Community College in 2009 to train the best and brightest in public safety careers such as law enforcement and firefighting.

## Southern Shakespeare sets 'Romeo' in Tallahassee

'A Town Divided' is based on interracial relationships

CD DAVIDSON-HIERS

TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT

Southern Shakespeare Company is taking Tallahassee by its Shakespeare and turning it around for a one-day performance of "A Town Divided," Friday at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. The play will be performed in Tallahassee Community College's Turner Auditorium, 444 Appleyard Drive.

"A Town Divided" is a re-imagining of Shakespeare's acclaimed "Romeo and Juliet," re-configuring the Capulet and Montague rivalry as Tallahassee's north- and south-side divide.

The play is based on interviews done with six people on their experiences with interracial relationships in Tallahassee.

Phillip Croton, co-director and co-writer, said some of the scenes in the play are taken directly from the interviews — some words and phrases, even.

"We tried to thread (them) into our play," he said.

He said "A Town Divided" is the result of wanting to give "Romeo and Juliet" a more contemporary re-write.

"And set in Tallahassee," he said.

Rob is a Chiles-educated young man from the northern side of town, Juelle goes to Rickards and is from the southern side. They meet at Cascades Park and, in typical Shakespearean fashion, begin to fall in love.

But Rob's mother cannot accept the idea of her son in a relationship with a woman of color; Juelle's family is hesitant to accept Rob and the challenges he poses.

Together, the couple must face the question: Is their love for each other enough to face the world's prejudices together?

Alex Fabrega, who plays Rob, is a Tallahassee native who attended Chiles High School and now goes to Florida State University. He said he has tried to customize his character to who he was during high school.

"If you're from Tallahassee (the play) really resonates," said the 22-year-old.

He said though the play brings the question of interracial tensions to the forefront, and is set in Tallahassee, it is not without entertainment value.

Kayla Badia, 22, plays Juelle. She is from Texas and came to Tallahassee to major in accounting and financing at Tallahassee Community College.

She said the racial tension in the play is an obvious theme, but the relationships in the play draw out deeper questions.

"Looking past that, as far as how parents are super protective of their children. And people interacting with kids who have different freedoms," she said.

"I want people to take away everything from the show. I want people to break us down as characters and see there's different levels to this play. Everything has depth to it," she said.





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## TCC's Commitment to Gadsden County

The Gadsden Center serves as TCC's permanent home in Gadsden County. Established in March 2015, The Gadsden Center continues the "Partnership for Progress" developed by TCC and Gadsden County over a decade ago. The Gadsden Center reflects TCC's strong commitment to providing programs and services and a meaningful presence that meet the real needs of the local community.

### **SERVICES AVAILABLE AT THE TCC GADSDEN CENTER INCLUDE:**

- |                                 |                        |  |
|---------------------------------|------------------------|--|
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- |                   |                   |                   |
|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
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| Monday - Thursday | Monday - Thursday | Monday - Thursday |
| 9 a.m. - noon     | 6 - 9 p.m.        | 6 - 10 p.m.       |



\*Financial Aid available

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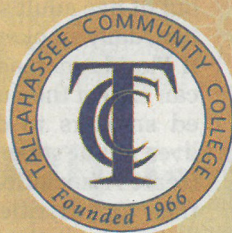
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