

# TALLAHASSEE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

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*In the News*



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June 19, 2009 - August 13, 2009



# TALLAHASSEE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

## *In the News*

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# Community College Week®

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JUNE 15, 2009  
VOLUME 21, No. 21



## Figuring it Out

A look at statistics shaping the higher education landscape

COMPLEX

### The First Five

The top associate degree producers in 2007-08 were:

College	Number
1. University of Phoenix Online	12,119
2. Miami Dade College	7,047
3. Broward College	4,715
4. American Int. College Online	4,482
5. Valencia Community College	4,240

SOURCE: COMMUNITY COLLEGE WEEK ANALYSIS

## SPECIAL REPORT

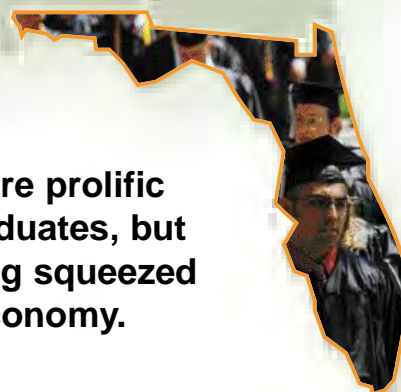
www.ccweek.com

# TOP 100 ASSOCIATE DEGREE PRODUCERS

2009 EDITION

Florida colleges are prolific producers of graduates, but schools are feeling squeezed by the sagging economy.

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ASCC/REDFISH

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With extensive charts and graphs, CCWeek crunches the Top 100 numbers.

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**TOP 100**  
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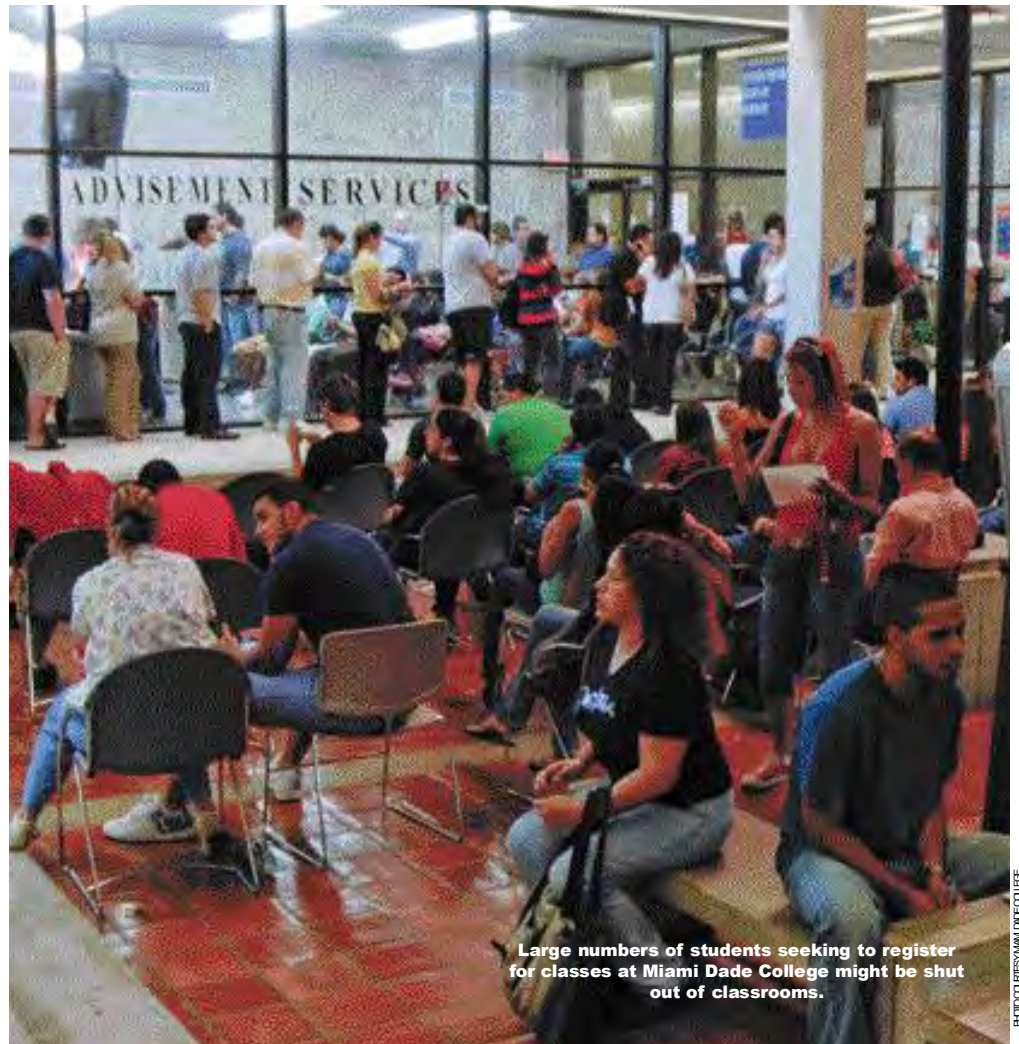
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One- and two-year certificates by ethnicity

# SQUEEZED

## IN THE SUNSHINE STATE

### Top Degree Producers in Florida Struggle with Reduced Funding, Spiraling Enrollments

BY PAUL BRADLEY



Large numbers of students seeking to register for classes at Miami Dade College might be shut out of classrooms.

**M**iami Dade College rests uneasily atop several of the categories covered by *Community College Week's* annual Top 100 Associate Degree Producers rankings and analysis.

In 2007-08, the college of 170,000 students, awarded 7,047 associate degrees, ranking second only to the online behemoth the University of Phoenix.

Miami Dade ranked first in the number of degrees awarded to members of minority groups, with 5,776. It awarded the most degrees to Hispanics (4,325) and African Americans (1,341). It conferred more liberal studies degrees than any other college (5,580).

Miami Dade has company in Florida. Four other Florida community colleges join Miami Dade College among the top ten associate degree producers across all academic disciplines. It's a statewide trend being fueled by the push for four-year degrees at community colleges, rising tuition and enrollment caps at the state's universities and an economy that's been pummeled by job losses.

But if Miami Dade leads the way in awarding associate degrees, the college recently earned another, less desirable distinction. Caught between sharply rising enrollments and vastly shrinking resources, Miami Dade slashed its budget more drastically than any of its brethren, in the process virtually capping enrollment, laying off staff and eliminating aca-

demid offerings on a scale unprecedented in the school's 50-year history.

Longtime college President Eduardo Padrón is downcast in the Sunshine State. "Rough is an understatement," he said of the cuts. "We are suffering from severe underfunding. That's nothing new. But this is worse than I've ever seen it. Enrollment is growing fast, but we can't keep up."

Padrón spoke shortly after announcing \$15 million in budget cuts for the fall term, which means that 111 administrative and support staff workers will be laid off; 86 vacant positions won't be filled; and non-personnel spending on things like maintenance and library books will be cut by \$2.7 million.

The college also cancelled all of its Open House registration events at its eight

campuses. There was no sense, Padrón said, to open the college's doors to a new group of students when they would have a small chance of landing a seat in a classroom in the fall. The college estimates the budget-cutting means that 30,000 students will not be able to take classes they need, and another 5,000 prospective students will not be shut out of the college altogether.

"It was a very difficult choice," Padrón

PHOTO COURTESY MIAMI DADE COLLEGE





**Florida,** from page 7, col. 5

is no room at the inn.”

The squeeze is not as bad at Florida Community College at Jacksonville, which ranks seventh in the overall number of associate degrees awarded. Still, the college has seen enrollment spike by 20 percent in the last year and state support shrink by an identical percentage.

*Shrinking State Support*

The college’s budget for 2009-10 absorbs an \$8 million reduction in state funding, said President Steven R. Wallace. He noted that ten years ago, state appropriations comprised 75 percent of the college’s budget. Today, state support has dropped to 51 percent of the total budget, Wallace said.

Wallace said the blow has been softened because the school began cutting costs and looking for more revenue sources at the first signs of the economic downturn in 2007. The college laid off 75 employees and left another 50 jobs vacant, none of them faculty positions, Wallace said. It also bolstered workforce training and military training programs to fill the school’s coffers.

“It was a difficult plan, but we have not touched a single faculty position,” he said. “We have not turned away a single student.”

The growth of Florida community colleges is being fed by



**“It was a difficult plan, but we have not touched a single faculty position.”**

— STEVEN R. WALLACE  
PRESIDENT  
FLORIDA COMMUNITY COLLEGE AT JACKSONVILLE



**“If you look at it like an airline, 4 percent of our students are flying in baggage.”**

— CARL M. KUTTLE JR.  
PRESIDENT  
ST. PETERSBURG COLLEGE



**“Our challenge is to add capacity without adding any faculty.”**

— SANFORD SHUGART  
PRESIDENT  
VALENCIA COMMUNITY COLLEGE

several factors:

- High school students are being shut out of universities by rising academic requirements, enrollment caps and rising tuition. A public school reform plan has raised the education aspirations of high school students, meaning more students are competing for college slots.

- Displaced workers and those who fear they’ll lose their jobs are looking to be retrained are turning to community colleges as a low-cost alternative to four-year colleges or private schools.

- Veterans returning to school are expected to swell enrollments when the new, more generous GI Bill goes into effect in August.

- A push for state community colleges to offer four-year degrees.

That last factor accounts for much of the growth being experienced by St. Petersburg College, which awarded 2,812 associate degrees in 2007-08, ranking it tenth in the country, according to *CCWeek’s* analysis.

The college now enrolls 4,000 students in its upper division, said college President Carl M. Kuttler Jr.

“We led the fight for the four-year degrees,” he said. “Among the state’s 67 counties, we ranked last for the percentage of our population with bachelor’s degrees. That had to change. What we’re doing is focusing on about 20 workforce-related programs” such as nursing, orthotics and prosthetics and veterinary technology.

While the college has avoided layoffs, space is tight there, Kuttler said.

“We’re at 104 percent capacity,” he said. “If you look at it like an airline, 4 percent of our students are flying in baggage.”

Even as enrollments and degree production have increased, Florida’s system of paying for higher education has exacerbated funding difficulties. Community colleges in Florida receive no local support, making them reliant on state funding, tuition and fees. Florida has no personal income tax; it relies primarily on sales taxes for revenue, and the cratering of the economy has created a \$6 billion budget shortfall.

State lawmakers have both cut spending on community colleges and stopped funding growth, halting per-student payments for new enrollees.

*Protecting Quality*

The consequences have been dire at Miami Dade. No state funds have been provided about 35,000 students, Padrón said. Full-time equivalent per-student funding has dropped from \$3,643 per FTE in 2006-07 to \$2,959 in 2009-10, according to figures provided by the college.

Padrón said the budget cuts are intended to protect the academic quality of the college.

“What we are trying to do is protect our core mission. We just don’t want our programs to lose their value. We’re not about to sacrifice that. We are doing this as a last resort. We have no choice,” he said.

The burden on community colleges has been eased by federal stimulus money.

Miami Dade received \$13.6 million in stimulus dollars, but Padrón worries about what will happen when that cash runs out in two years.

College leaders said the long-term solution is for lawmakers to devise new funding formulas to keep college support stable even in economic downturns.

“There is no way we can continue to try to educate so many students without more help,” Padrón said. ▲



PHOTO COURTESY OF FLORIDA COMMUNITY COLLEGE AT JACKSONVILLE

**Students at Florida Community College at Jacksonville can pursue careers in air traffic control in a simulation lab that is part of a Federal Aviation Administration training initiative.**

## TCC Students Visit Sister School In Taiwan

EMAIL ADDRESS: NEWS@WCTV.TV

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. (June 16, 2009) - For the first time ever, **TCC's** annual trip to its "Sister School" in Taiwan will include students. The five students: Skylar Carlson, Morgan Helton, Abraham Reising, Christopher Ryan Young, Folayan Wright, Ray Harless and Amy Smith, will leave Tallahassee on July 2 for a month-long visit to Taiwan.

The trip is a continuation of a partnership which began 16 years ago. After visiting **TCC** in the spring of 1993, Jerry Fussell, an English teacher at San Sin High School of Commerce and Home Economics, initiated the invitation with the help of his wife, Ellie, who is Taiwanese and a graduate of **TCC**. That summer, eight instructors from **TCC** traveled to Kaohsiung where they taught English grammar and vocabulary to the students at San Sin. The relationship has continued every summer since and, in 1995, official documents were signed which made San Sin **TCC's** official "Sister School."

"**TCC** is extremely proud to have such a longstanding relationship with our Taiwanese friends," said **TCC** President **Bill Law**. "This is a unique chance for our students and we are proud to support them in their endeavors; it is another demonstration of the variety of opportunities at **Tallahassee Community College** and the expansion of our Global Education Initiative."

Since it began in 1993, numerous **TCC** instructors and local school teachers have traveled to Taiwan. Additionally, a number of San Sin High School graduates have attended and graduated from **TCC**, signaling the strength of the relationship between the two institutions.

"Our **TCC**-Taiwan Sister School Program represents one of the very best global education opportunities at **TCC**," said Dr. Jeanne O'Kon, Program Chair, Division of History and Social Sciences, who also heads **TCC's** involvement in the summer program. "Now for the first time, seven of our students will share in this wonderful opportunity. They will reside with Taiwanese host families and will interact with Taiwanese high school students, teaching them English and traveling with them for four weeks. We are very proud of both our American and Taiwanese students, all of whom will benefit tremendously from this great experience!"

For more information on **TCC's** Sister School Partnership, contact Dr. Jeanne O'Kon by phone, (850) 201-8146, or email [okonj@TCC.fl.edu](mailto:okonj@TCC.fl.edu).

## Updated: Local governments briefed on more stimulus funding sources

By Dave Hodges

DEMOCRAT BUSINESS EDITOR

Local government leaders set their sights today on two more sources of economic stimulus dollars, one that would pay for transportation improvements and another that provides public bond financing at a discount for economic development and private capital projects.

Officially announced May 18, the U.S. Department of Transportation's supplemental discretionary grants are referred to as Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery, or TIGER, funds. They total \$1.5 billion for state or local governments and are awarded competitively to pay for roads and other transportation projects.

Harry Reed, executive director of the Capital Region Transportation Planning Agency, said the deadline for applications is Sept. 15. The priority is on projects that can be completed by Feb. 17, 2012.

"The grants are generally \$20 million to \$300 million. The secretary (of the DOT) can waive the \$20 million minimum grant size for small counties and cities," Reed said.

The bond financing takes two forms and is directed at "recovery zones," defined as areas designated by a county or city as having significant poverty, unemployment, home foreclosures or general distress, or that have been designated an empowerment zone or renewal community.

Ken Morris, assistant to the Leon County administrator, said Recovery Zone Economic Development Bonds allow a local

government to borrow at a lower cost than traditional tax-exempt financing. A county could receive a federal payment for 45 percent of the interest incurred in financing qualified economic development projects, such as job training or educational programs.

Using the program's Recovery Zone Facility Bonds, counties or cities may provide tax-exempt financing for projects that normally would not qualify, such as manufacturing plants, distribution centers, hotels or other private facilities. A project has to be located in the recovery zone designated to qualify.

The bonds have to be issued by Jan. 1, 2011.

The local government officials worked together this year to produce a regional economic stimulus proposal covering the four-county area and outlining \$1.1 billion in infrastructure improvements and other projects. If all are funded and move forward, the projects are estimated to create 15,591 jobs.

Regional partners in the effort include representatives from Leon County, Tallahassee, Gadsden County, Chattahoochee, Greensboro, Gretna, Havana, Midway, Quincy, Jefferson County, Monticello, Wakulla County, Crawfordville, Sopchoppy, St. Marks, Florida A&M University, Florida State University, Tallahassee Community College, Leon County Schools, Gadsden County Schools, Jefferson County Schools, Wakulla County Schools, TMH, Blueprint 2000 and the CRTPA.

WCTV - June 18, 2009

## Young Women Learn to Weld and More

Reporter: Julie Montanaro

EMAIL ADDRESS: JULIE.MONTANARO@WCTV.TV

Camp. It's a summer tradition that evokes images of swimming holes, cabins and campfires.

But a Tallahassee camp features an entirely different kind of flame.

21 young women are learning about fabricating and welding in hopes that some of them will consider choosing jobs that are typically held by men.

The Gadsden County Commission and The Foundation of Fabricators and Manufacturers Association have teamed up with TCC to offer the camp and teach these young women

skills that could earn them 12 dollars an hour or more.

"I thought it was harder than what it actually is, but it's kind of easy. Well, once you get over the fear of being burnt and everything," said participant Alexis McWhite.

One of the instructors is a woman who's a certified welder and computer science professor. She's hoping to convince her students that it's always a good idea to have another skill under your belt.

Next week, the young women will learn about plumbing, electrical and masonry work.



## Scholarship planned in honor of TCC's Cherry Hall Alexander

By Yewande Addie

DEMOCRAT REPORTER

The eagles of **Tallahassee Community College** will soon bid farewell to Cherry Hall Alexander, the school's director of library services. But before she takes flight into retirement on June 30, Alexander will leave a mark on campus through a scholarship named in her honor.

The Cherry Hall Alexander Minority Scholarship will officially be announced during a ceremony on Saturday, June 27 in Turner Auditorium on the **TCC** campus. The free event is open to the public and it begins with a reception at 3 p.m., followed by the program at 4 p.m.

Steve Beasley, chairman of the scholarship's fundraising committee, said, "We actually wanted to raise money to send her on a trip to the Bahamas or somewhere nice, but she said she didn't want a gift or a trip. She preferred the use of a scholarship in her name."

Beasley said the goal is to raise between \$10,000 to \$15,000 by June 27, but fundraising for the scholarship will continue after next weekend.

Alexander said she hasn't had much time to think about her upcoming departure after 10 years of service at **TCC**.

"My high-school librarian, Ms. Mae Eva Larry, inspired me to be a librarian because I used to love how she dressed," Alexander, 56, said with a chuckle. "But as I learned more about the field, I was surprised at the wealth of information and just fell in love. At the time in Monticello, you didn't grow up with a lot of money, but through reading, I could escape and travel and grow."

After graduating from **TCC** in 1973, she received her bachelor's and master's degrees in library science from Florida State University.

She went on to work as a library technical assistant at FSU, librarian at the State Library of Florida, Legislative Analyst in the Florida House of Representatives, administrative librarian at the Jacksonville Public Library and librarian and department chairperson at Florida Community College at Jacksonville.

Following her 13-year stint at FCC in Jacksonville, she made the move back to Tallahassee after a colleague suggested she apply for a position at **TCC** to be closer to her mother.

In addition to being director of library services, she's also known for establishing and developing the **TCC** Black History Annual Calendar, which highlights local achievers that impact the Leon, Gadsden, Jefferson and Wakulla counties.

Alexander brought the idea to Tallahassee from Jacksonville, once she noticed there were no activities on campus during Black History Month.

"The person doesn't have to be educated but they must be nominated by individuals in the community for the calendar and a committee chooses the honorees," Alexander said.

Besides her formal position, Alexander also mentors students and sees herself as a mother-like figure to students.

"They flock to me like I'm their mama and I help because if they have problems, they can't do their best in the classroom," Alexander said.

Franklin Arroyo, Alexander's assistant, has mixed emotions about Alexander's departure.

"I'm excited for her because it's another part of her life, but at the same time I worry if we'll find someone with the same level of enthusiasm, someone open to the change and innovation that schools must embrace to still be successful in what they provide to their students," Arroyo said. "She worked hard at keeping that level of mutual respect high...and let us know we're all linked in the same chain."

For more information on how to make contributions to the Cherry Hall Alexander Minority Scholarship, contact Franklin Arroyo at 201-6108.

# College Costs

## Will you be in the **red**?

Changes in the Bright Futures Scholarship program mean Medallion and Academic Scholars will pay more out of pocket for tuition and fees at a state university.



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Tallahassee Democrat - June 21 and 28, 2009  
Havana Herald - June 25, 2009



TCC has the best Fire Academy in the state of Florida. I will graduate after six months of training and then continue at TCC to get my EMT certification. TCC has everything I need to fulfill my dream of being a firefighter!

Shannon Daniels,  
*Fire Academy Recruit, Class 5*



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## Five time-conserving things you can do today

By Mark Raciappa

SPECIAL TO THE DEMOCRAT

Let's face it: We can't "manage" time because it moves ahead with or without us. We can, however, manage ourselves. And since time is our most valuable asset (it's the only one we can't replace), here are some practical ideas:

- Plan — All of us have a section in our brain called the Reticular Activating System. Among other things, it helps us focus on the outcomes we want. We often use it for negative outcomes with "worry" (praying for what you don't want) being the best example. We can turn that around and set our sights (believe) on positive outcomes.
- By planning the next day the night before, we harness the power of our minds to engage and execute simply by "sleeping on it." Review your to-do list this evening and be amazed at what you accomplish tomorrow.
- Prioritize — What is most important and should be done first? What's next? Our human tendency is to do the "easy" things first, saving the difficult or least desirable for last. Often those are really the most important or beneficial tasks.
- "Business" does not mean "busy-ness" — If you are working long hours, overwhelmed with tasks, skipping meals, neglecting your health and family, etc., and you are still not growing and succeeding, it's safe to say that some of your time is being wasted on nonproductive activities.
- Be honest — there are some things you can delegate. Both FSU and **TCC** have internship programs and want to help. Contact Lauren Dalton ([ldalton@cob.fsu.edu](mailto:ldalton@cob.fsu.edu)) or Catie Goodman ([goodmanc@TCC.fl.edu](mailto:goodmanc@TCC.fl.edu)) for information. To facilitate your learning, listen to books or motivational CDs in the car.
- Improve paper handling — For every piece of paper on your desk, the more times you touch it (or hunt for it), the less productive you are. Use the 4 D's: "dump" it, which means throw it away; "delegate" it, which means assign responsibility to someone else; "defer" it, which means schedule it for another time (file it in the meantime); or "do" it, which means act now.
- Reduce distractions — Turn off automatic receive on your e-mail. E-mail populating your computer screen is like a ringing phone and breaks your concentration. Schedule three or four times throughout the day when you will check it and stick to that. Set aside some planning or production time each day, close your door and work uninterrupted. Have a structured agenda for all meetings and use a timer to stay on schedule. Your team and your clients will thank you for respecting their time. Start today!

Business coach Mark Raciappa is owner of ActionCOACH in Tallahassee, a business training and consulting firm. Contact him at [markraciappa@actioncoach.com](mailto:markraciappa@actioncoach.com).

## TCC trustees OK second tuition hike

By Angeline J. Taylor  
DEMOCRAT STAFF WRITER

Trustees at **Tallahassee Community College** on Monday increased tuition for the second time in three months. Now students enrolling in the spring will have to pay about \$920 per semester for a 15-hour course load.

The sum pales in comparison to Florida State and Florida A&M universities' tuition of \$1,534.95 and \$1,414.95 respectively. However, one trustee wanted his colleagues to consider neighboring institutions when making the tuition increase.

"If we don't start raising our tuition substantially, we're going to find our enrollment numbers so high we're not going to (be able) to provide a quality education," Trustee Bill Hebrock said.

Monday's action amounts to about a 3-percent increase. It becomes effective in spring 2010.

Hebrock said students who couldn't afford the recently increased tuition costs at FSU and FAMU would flood **TCC's** doors. FSU and FAMU increased their tuitions by 15 percent. **TCC's** latest tuition boost falls in line with state **Lawmakers'** request of an 8-percent increase.

**TCC** trustees originally increased tuition in April when they raised costs about 5 percent, or \$2.75 per credit hour. That becomes effective this fall. Monday's increase adds another \$1.75 per credit hour to tuition costs, which ranks **TCC** as one of the cheapest among the other 27 community colleges.

**TCC** President **Bill Law** said the tuition increase was necessary to "move ourselves from the least expensive (community college) to about mid-range."

In addition to increasing tuition, trustees unanimously approved to offer 13 **TCC** employees an early option to retire. The 13 had already entered the retirement process known as DROP. They are scheduled to retire in either 2010 or 2011. **Law** said if all accept the early retirement option it could save the college about \$1.22 million.

**TCC** plans to schedule another workshop to finalize any other measures on the college's budget.

Tallahassee Democrat - June 21, 26, 28 and July 2, 2009

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## TCC Tuition Hike Approved

Reporter: Heather Bianche

EMAIL ADDRESS: HEATHER.BIANCHE@WCTV.TV



**TCC** students can expect to see another tuition hike beginning in the upcoming Spring semester.

**TCC** Board of Trustees approved a \$1.75 per credit hour tuition increase Monday afternoon but say the college is still the best bang for the students buck.

**TCC** President **Bill Law** says its a fine line between creating revenue for the college while still staying affordable for its students.

"We all want to save money for students, but is being the least expensive damaging or potentially damaging to providing the kind of quality that we've earned our reputation with," said Dr. **Bill Law**, President of **TCC**.

**Dr. Law** says the tuition increase will help them offset the 5% of the budget that is currently paid by stimulus money.

The board also approved its upcoming budget and say they can still accommodate growth in the college.

## TCC students will be paying more next year for tuition

Tallahassee, FL (WTVX)--Just like most of Florida's college students, **TCC** students will be paying more next year for tuition. On Monday, trustees voted to increase tuition by three percent for the second time in just three months.

Students who enroll for classes next spring will look to pay about 920 dollars for a 15-hour course load. This latest tuition boost falls in line with state **Lawmaker's** request of an eight percent tuition increase. Some say this tuition hike is more than most students can handle.

Back in April, **TCC** increased tuition by five percent. But even with the increase, the school is still ranked as one of the least expensive of Florida's 27 community colleges.

## TCC Ranks Among Nation's Top AA Degree Producers

Reporter: John Rogers

EMAIL ADDRESS: JOHN.ROGERS@WCTV.TV

**Tallahassee Community College** ranks among the top colleges in the nation when it comes to two-year degrees.

Community College Week released a report of the Top 100 Community colleges based on the number of awarded AA degrees, and **TCC** came in at 16th in the nation.

School officials attribute this success to the size of **TCC** as well as its close ties to the State University system.

**TCC** officials also point toward the school's job placement program.

**TCC's** Vice President for Academic Affairs, Barbara Sloan says, "The other huge piece of the population that we get that universities often don't get is students returning to work from dead-end jobs or part-time jobs or having been laid off from jobs."

**TCC** has plans to offer more distance-learning courses and they're hoping to rank in the top 10 in the future.

## TCC continues to rank among the nation's top A.A. degree producers

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. (June 24, 2009) -- Community College Week has released its annual Top 100 analysis, a report examining degrees and certificates awarded at community colleges across the nation. The report, based on the 2007-08 academic year, confirms that **Tallahassee Community College** remains one of America's top associate degree producers.

In the 2009 report, released on Monday, **TCC** ranked 16th nationally among two-year institutions in the total number of associate degrees awarded during the 2007-08 academic year. According to the report, **TCC** awarded 2,248 associate degrees during the 2007-08 academic year, compared to 2,225 in 2006-07 when it was 14th in Community College Week's rankings.

**TCC** is one of seven schools in Florida's Community College System that landed in the Top 25 list of two-year institutions. Broward College awarded more associate degrees than any other two-year school in the nation. Other schools in the Top 25 include Valencia Community College (No. 2), Santa Fe College (No. 6), Palm Beach Community College (No. 8), Hillsborough Community College (No. 19) and Brevard Community College (No. 23).

The data are collected by the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) through the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data Set (IPEDS) completions survey. The data are also considered preliminary because every eligible institution is not yet included.

The analysis is limited to institutions that are eligible for participation in Title IV programs - which encompass all federal financial aid - located in the 50 states and the District of Columbia. To be Title IV eligible, an institution must be accredited by either a regional or specialized accreditation agency that is recognized by the U.S. Department of Education.

Community College Week's report also demonstrated **TCC's** ability to offer associate degrees to a diverse population.

**TCC** earned a No. 14 ranking among two-year institutions in the number of associate degrees awarded to African-Americans. According to preliminary reports, the College awarded 475 associate degrees in this category during 2007-08.

**TCC** also garnered a No. 16 ranking among two-year institutions in the number of associate degrees awarded to non-minorities. Preliminary reports show that **TCC** awarded 1,470 associate degrees in this category during 2007-08, a two-percent increase from 1,444 in 2006-07.

**TCC** also broke new ground in the 2009 rankings. According to the report, **TCC** awarded 16 associate degrees to American Indians in 2007-08 to earn a No. 80 ranking - a 129-percent increase over 2006-07 when only eight degrees were awarded.

Additionally, **TCC** is ranked fifth nationally among two-year institutions in the Liberal Arts and Sciences, General Students and Humanities category. The College awarded 2,030 associate degrees in this category in 2007-08.

## TCC plans trip to Taiwan

BY ROB CHANEY

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

For the first time ever, **TCC's** annual trip to its "Sister School" in Taiwan will include students. The seven students — Skylar Carlson, Morgan Helton, Abraham Reising, Christopher Ryan Young, Folayan Wright, Ray Harless and Amy Smith — will leave Tallahassee on July 2 for a monthlong visit to Taiwan.

The trip is a continuation of a partnership that began 16 years ago. After visiting **TCC** in the spring of 1993, Jerry Fussell, an English teacher at San Sin High School of Commerce and Home Economics, initiated the invitation with the help of his wife, Ellie, who is Taiwanese and a graduate of **TCC**. That summer, eight instructors from **TCC** traveled to Kaohsiung where they taught English grammar and vocabulary to the students at San Sin. The relationship has continued every summer since and, in 1995, official documents were signed that made San Sin **TCC's** official "Sister School."

"**TCC** is extremely proud to have such a longstanding relationship with our Taiwanese friends," said **TCC** President **Bill Law**. "This is a unique chance for our students and we are proud to support them in their endeavors; it is another demonstration of the variety of opportunities at **Tallahassee Community College** and the expansion of our Global Education Initiative."

Since the program began in 1993, numerous **TCC** instructors and local school teachers have traveled to Taiwan. Additionally, a number of San Sin High School graduates have attended and graduated from **TCC**, signaling the strength of the relationship between the two institutions.

"Our **TCC**-Taiwan Sister School Program represents one of the very best global education opportunities at **TCC**," said Dr. Jeanne O'Kon, program chair, Division of History and Social Sciences, who also heads **TCC's** involvement in the summer program. "Now for the first time, seven of our students will share in this wonderful opportunity. They will reside with Taiwanese host families and will interact with Taiwanese high-school students, teaching them English and traveling with them for four weeks. We are very proud of both our American and Taiwanese students, all of whom will benefit tremendously from this great experience!"

For more information on **TCC's** Sister School Partnership, contact Dr. Jeanne O'Kon by phone, 201-8146, or e-mail [okonj@TCC.fl.edu](mailto:okonj@TCC.fl.edu).



## TCC ranks in top 20 among the nation's top A.A. degree producers

DEMOCRAT STAFF REPORT

Community College Week has released its annual Top 100 analysis, a report examining degrees and certificates awarded at community colleges across the nation.

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Return to [Tallahassee.com](http://Tallahassee.com) for more details.

## Boyd secures funding for Pat Thomas LE Academy

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Congressman Allen Boyd (D-North Florida), a member of the House Appropriations Committee, has secured \$245,000 for the Florida Public Safety Institute at Pat Thomas Law Enforcement Academy in Havana, Florida. Congressman Boyd included funding for this important project in the Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies (CJS) Appropriations bill for Fiscal Year 2010, which passed in the House of Representatives this week.

"The Pat Thomas Law Enforcement Academy has built a reputation for being a premier law enforcement and corrections education center, and I have been proud to support its critical training mission throughout my career in Congress," said Congressman Allen Boyd. "This federal funding is an important investment in the Academy's intelligence-training programs, and I am pleased to have addressed their top priority for fiscal year 2010."

The Florida Public Safety Institute, a division of Tallahassee Community College, will use these funds to sustain and expand its training program by implementing online, distance learning strategies to other state and local law enforcement agencies. Previously, Congressman Boyd has secured \$688,000 in federal funding for the Academy.

The bill now awaits consideration by the Senate.

## Firefighter Recruits are real "Amigos"

Reported by Rebecca Baer

A group of firefighter recruits are not only serving their community through their work, but on their down time too.

They're not full-fledged firefighters yet, but these young men and women are already becoming heroes.

Students at the **Tallahassee Community College** Fire Academy banded together to throw a barbecue fundraiser for Camp Amigo. With lots of food, entertainment, and activities, they hope to draw a large enough crowd to raise five thousand dollars for the kids' burn camp.

"It's really not about giving us attention, although we want TFD and the fire academy to get as much recognition as possible with all that they do," says academy student David Stoots. "But really just the fact that we're going to be able to make an impact on these kids lives is what makes it good."

The idea is not new ; every year academy students work on a community service project, a program requirement.

"To be a part of a humanitarian effort, to show a community that not only are we grateful for what you do by paying our salaries, that we want to help you, those who are in need," proclaims the academy's director Melvin Stone.



One instructor, who also participates in "Amigo," says funding for the camp allows kids a week's vacation and a chance to just be regular kids.

"These kids are very excited. A lot of them, it's probably the only trip they do in the summer," says Rusty Roberts, Camp Amigo President.

And this summer they'll do it courtesy of the latest class of Tallahassee firefighters.

This year's Summer Camp Amigo will be held in North Carolina.

## TCC is No. 16 associate-degree producer in U.S. School is among seventeen Fla. community colleges ranked

BY ANGELINE J. TAYLOR  
DEMOCRAT STAFF WRITER

The country's top 100 associate-degree producers were announced this week, and Tallahassee and the state of Florida made their mark.

**Tallahassee Community College** ranked No. 16 on the list. Other Florida schools in the top 20 are Brevard Community College, No. 1; Valencia Community College, No. 2; Santa Fe College, No. 6; and Hillsborough Community College, No. 19.

Barbara Sloan, **TCC** vice president of academic affairs, said the list is valuable in helping communities understand the purpose behind community colleges.

Gerry Edwards with Community College Week said the listing is totally data driven. The magazine has produced the listing for 17 years. Administrators at the 100 schools turn information in to a federal database.

"We try to keep a level playing field," Edwards said.

Seventeen Florida community colleges were ranked. The other Florida institutions that made the list are Pensacola Junior College, Seminole Community College, Manatee Community College, Miami Dade College, Florida Community College at Jacksonville, St. Petersburg College, Keiser-University at Ft. Lauderdale, Daytona State College, Indian River State College, Full Sail University and Edison State College.

Sloan said Florida's two-year colleges "have a very strong articulation with the university system. We are also getting people into the workforce."

# 2002

## A Tale of Two Presidents

All is well for Bill Law, who became president of Tallahassee Community College seven years ago.

In fact, the September/October 2002 issue of *Tallahassee Magazine* introduced two new academic leaders in town: Law and his childhood friend Fred Gainous, who had just been hired as president of Florida A&M University.

Today, Law is just as energetic and proactive as he was

seven years ago. With numerous changes and additions to the community college, he is focused on serving Tallahassee's needs.

"I am proud of the work that all of us at TCC are doing," he said. "One of our greatest accomplishments is our engagement with the community."

Some of Law's top goals have been achieved since 2002. For example, a child care program, created in cooperation with Kids Inc., has been established at the community college.

Law's vision also has helped TCC reach out to state workers. In fact, the school recently secured a \$135,000 grant from Florida's Great Northwest to support training toward computer certifications for state employees.



Bill Law

Fred Gainous

Among other projects under way, Law is proud to talk about a new health education center. The Ghazvini Center for Health Education project was funded by the Florida Legislature, and Tallahassee Memorial Hospital donated 8.5 acres of land for the project.

"It's been great fun and progress," he says. "We have accomplished a great deal. We are at an all-time high of students who transfer from (TCC) to FAMU and FSU.

While Law has had a long and successful tenure at TCC, Gainous had a much more difficult time while serving as FAMU's ninth president. Because of differences with the university's board of trustees, faculty and staff, and administrative departments, Gainous' presidency was cut short in 2004. He resigned from his duties after a 9-4 vote by the trustees to terminate his contract.

Nevertheless, Gainous, who currently works as director of the Center for Agricultural Research, under the College of Engineering Sciences, Technology and Agriculture, is supportive of James Ammons, the current president of FAMU.

Today, Gainous and Law's friendship is just as strong as it was since before their presidencies at the two institutions.

"We are still friends. We have lunch on a regular basis," Gainous said. "I admire what he's done for TCC in terms of growth of the student population and the uprising of new facilities and projects."

"I admire him as a friend and I still think he is a great leader," Law said of Gainous.

— *Candice Montgomery*

THE NEWSLETTER FOR MEMBERS OF ENVISION CREDIT UNION

# Outlook



WWW.ENVISIONCU.COM JULY 2009

## Dorothy Binger Honored With Scholarship in Her Name



*Dorothy "Dot" Binger stands between Envision Credit Union President/CEO Ray E. Cromer, Jr. and former TCC Foundation executive director Marjorie Turnbull.*

It's probably not possible to overstate the contributions made by Dorothy "Dot" Binger to Envision Credit Union. As a long-time volunteer she has served on the Board of Directors two different times for a total of 25 years. Between her two

Board terms, she served on the Board of Directors of United Solutions Company, which provides data processing, optical storage, and network management services to Envision and other credit unions.

Following her most recent term on the Envision Board, she has agreed to serve on the Supervisory Committee. At the 2009 Envision Credit Union Annual Meeting, Binger was honored for her many years of service. Instead of another plaque, former Florida legislator and former executive director of the Tallahassee Community College (TCC) Foundation, Marjorie Turnbull announced that the Credit Union had funded the Dorothy Binger Scholarship through the TCC Foundation.

In recognition of Binger's involvement in the Guardian Ad Litem program, the Dorothy Binger Scholarship will be awarded annually to a TCC student who is part of the State's Child Protection System.

Binger has close ties to TCC because she was the third person hired when Dr. Fred Turner started TCC in 1966.

## Chamber Chatter 7.02

### Member to Member discount program

By Staff

Secrets and Surprises

By TONI COURTIER

Every Wednesday and Friday at 11:45 a.m., I get a little reminder that at noon my new class will be available. Then it's 15 minutes of anticipation. I have been taking advantage of the Burt Poole Scholarship that is offered to members through a partnership between our Wakulla County Chamber of Commerce and [TCC](#).

Let me tell you, online classes are the way to go. The courses generally run for six weeks with a total of 12 lessons. As I mentioned, the classes become available to download twice a week and you work at your own pace. There are discussion areas for that interactive feeling and quizzes to check your progress. There are homework assignments too, but in reality, nobody checks them so it's just for your own knowledge and integrity to complete them. There is a final exam and that is graded, but you have two weeks after its release to finish it and it is open book if you choose. I've taken a range of subjects from Creating Web Pages to Photoshop to Internet Writing and even Speed Spanish. I've also taken advantage of the CSS and XHTML program as well as Illustrator. Petra, at the Chamber, is a joy to work with and has a list of course offerings available. You can also look at the course list on the Chamber's web site. Quick Books and Excel and other business related courses are also presented. It's no secret that these classes are available, but it is a surprise that not many people are taking advantage of this opportunity.



My goal is to have a challenging career in law enforcement. The excellence of TCC's Florida Public Safety Institute has prepared me to protect our citizens and serve our community.

Tyler Epstein,  
*Class President of Basic Recruit Class 350*



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the workforce experience

High quality education | Affordable tuition | Flexible schedules

**Train Protect Serve**

Tallahassee Community College | 444 Appleyard Drive | GoToTCC.com | 201-TCC1

Havana Herald - July 9, 2009  
Tallahassee Democrat - July 10 and 31 2009



I've been working in the electronic engineering field for the last 17 years. Taking classes at TCC to refresh my skills has opened the door to new opportunities!

Preteena Gibson,  
*A.A., General Transfer, Class of '09*



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and stay in the game!

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## Soft skills a key to successful hiring

By Howard Libin

SMALL BUSINESS MANAGEMENT

Over the years I have had hundreds of employees, some great ones, some good ones and some that I would rather forget.

A graphic designer who I will call Cliff (because that was his name) was one of the ones that will haunt me forever. During the year or so he worked for me I was constantly amazed by his lack of judgment and disdain for standard office protocol.

Cliff was not a bad guy and I don't think he was deliberately trying to take advantage of me, but he did lack a basic understanding of the employer/employee relationship and the concept of customer service.

Finally, after having to explain to him one day why it was inappropriate to spend an hour of work time writing a letter to his grandmother, I took him into my office and told him that he could not work here anymore.

On paper, Cliff had the educational and employment history necessary to do the job, but what he lacked were the soft skills needed to become a success on the job.

Soft skills are the attitudes, aptitudes and abilities needed to successfully navigate the real-world workplace. From understanding the need to dress appropriately and the requirement that you call in if you are going to miss a day of work, to knowing how to work as part of a team and the ability to make sound decisions on your own.

The growing soft skill deficit among employees is a clearly a problem, the way common sense and common decency are becoming far less common. Years ago I used to eat at an Italian restaurant where the owner had posted a sign behind the cash register that read, "I don't have to tell my staff to be nice. I just hire nice people."

If it were only that easy!

Unfortunately, job candidates lie on their resumes, past employer references are suspect, and job candidates lie in their interviews.

While some soft skill weaknesses are obvious, others can hide out until long after an applicant is hired. Later when the employee has to be dismissed, the company has to bear additional hiring costs, training costs and opportunity costs resulting from the poor placement.

Educators and workforce professionals have reacted to employer concerns about the readiness of the labor pool by developing assessment tests and remediation programs to evaluate and train jobseekers in the soft skills.

Many major employers have readily embraced the idea of soft skill assessment. Wal-Mart administers a soft skill/work habit test to each online job applicant. The National Retail Federation has a Retail Readiness Assessment test for use by its members.

The state has an assessment and remediation program called Florida Ready to Work, administrated through various local agencies, including **Tallahassee Community College's** Economic and Workforce Development department (201-8352) and WorkForce Plus' One-Stop Centers (933-0023).

The Florida Ready To Work program evaluates a candidate's grasp of applied mathematics, ability to read for understanding, and ability to locate information, as well as a new work habits section that measures attitude, behavior, listening and speaking, problem solving and interpersonal skills.

Howard Libin calls himself Supreme Commander of Adventures in Advertising, a Tallahassee based promotional advertising agency. He writes regularly on small business management subjects.

Contact him at [howard@libinworld.com](mailto:howard@libinworld.com).



## TCC AWARDED INNOVATION GENERATION GRANT

Tallahassee, Fla. – The Motorola Foundation announced that **Tallahassee Community College (TCC)** partner has received an \$18,700.00 Innovation Generation grant. These funds were received through the **TCC** Foundation and will support programs that engage students in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) to build the confidence and skills they need for success. In 2009, the Motorola Foundation will provide \$5 million in grants to support out-of-school programming, teacher training, curriculum development and other programs that spark students' interest in STEM.

"This grant will provide valuable exposure to engaging science activities that teachers can implement immediately in their classrooms," said Wilbert Butler, program director. "Teachers will examine their own understandings and misconceptions of science. These methods will allow teachers to create learning environments that will be beneficial for all learners."

**TCC** will use the Innovation Generation grant funds to implement support programs at Havana Elementary School, in K-5 classrooms. Teachers from Havana will attend a workshop at **TCC**, July 20-24, and will receive support throughout the 2009-2010 school year in developing weekly STEM activities for each grade level. The Motorola Foundation and **TCC** will also provide volunteers to provide technical support in the classroom. The project will be conducted in collaboration with Dr. Sherry Southerland from Florida State University's FSU-Teach program.

Through the use of explicit, reflective lessons, students will be able to learn at their own pace and be allowed the needed time to understand the science concepts. Introducing students to the real-world application of concepts they learn in the classroom strengthens problem-solving skills, increases knowledge retention and opens students' eyes to the career possibilities in those fields.

"Innovation Generation programs make science and math both real and fun for today's students, bringing to life what they hear from their teachers every day," said Eileen Sweeney, director of the Motorola Foundation. "The work **TCC** is doing to engage students in these subjects will help our next generation to succeed in a global, knowledge-based economy where critical thinking is no longer just a benefit, but a necessity."

This year Motorola will convene its grantees at the first annual Innovation Generation Conference. **TCC** will join dozens of other grantees to share best practices and cultivate the collaborative learning environment necessary to harness students' curiosity about STEM.

To learn more about the Motorola Foundation's Innovative Generation grants, please visit [www.motorola.com/giving](http://www.motorola.com/giving). For additional information on the science teacher-training program, please contact: Wilbert Butler, 850-251-0436, [butlerw@TCC.fl.edu](mailto:butlerw@TCC.fl.edu)

## TCC announces plans for Advanced Manufacturing

### TCC News Release:

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. – **Tallahassee Community College** has announced a plan that will bring an Advanced Manufacturing Training Center (AMTC) to its main campus. The initiative will be a joint effort between **TCC** and the Economic Development Council of Tallahassee and Leon County (EDC).

The AMTC is designed to provide technologically advanced training for both incumbent and new workers in the region's manufacturing sector and will serve as a significant resource for attracting new manufacturing businesses to Leon, Gadsden and Wakulla Counties. **TCC** received Department of Defense grants totaling \$1.8 million to equip, operate and staff the Center. By utilizing the grant funds along with projected revenue generated by user fees and student tuition, the College will be able to operate the Center with a surplus of funds at the end of five years.

"The Advanced Manufacturing Training Center will serve as a valuable resource for all manufacturers in this region," said Beth Mann Pace, Manufacturing Technology Program Specialist. "Not only will it provide customized training for current employees, but it will help create a pool of technically trained manufacturing candidates."

According to the EDC, 22 companies are actively engaged in manufacturing activity. Additionally, over the last 18 months, 31 companies from outside the region, all with manufacturing and assembly functions, have expressed an interest in relocating to Tallahassee. Nine of 19 active EDC projects have either a general or aviation-based manufacturing component while six current regional commercialization projects deal with advanced manufacturing processes.

"The EDC is looking forward to working with **TCC** and the private sector businesses through our Capital Region Manufacturer's (CRM) roundtable to bring the Center to life," said Beth Kirkland, Executive Director of the EDC.

**TCC's** plan calls for the Center to be developed in an existing facility on campus.

For more information on the Center, contact Beth Mann Pace by phone, (850) 201-9766, or email [paceb@tcc.fl.edu](mailto:paceb@tcc.fl.edu).

## WCTV and Tallahassee Democrat - July 7, 2009

### TCC Advanced Manufacturing Training Center Could Bring in More Businesses to Area

**Reporter: John Rogers**

EMAIL ADDRESS: [JOHN.ROGERS@WCTV.TV](mailto:JOHN.ROGERS@WCTV.TV)

**Tallahassee Community College** will begin work on a training center that could bring many new jobs to the area.

Within the next few months, **TCC** will renovate a building on campus into an Advanced Manufacturing Training Center.

School officials say local manufacturers will need around 200 new workers over the next year and the center will be used to train them.

**TCC** Vice President for Economic & Workforce Development, John Chapin says, "We have something on the order of 20 different companies that have approached Tallahassee that are manufacturing-based from outside the area. We want to have a place where they can train their new workers, and they can come see that Tallahassee really does have a training center where they can build a workforce they'll need to be successful."

**TCC** has received nearly \$2 million in federal grants to run the center and has partnered with a private firm to renovate the building.

# Jobs training center proposed for TCC campus

By Angeline J. Taylor  
DEMOCRAT STAFF WRITER

An initiative to develop a local training center could bring 200 jobs to the Big Bend, said Tallahassee Community College's John Chapin.

Chapin is the college's vice president for economic and workforce development. His department has joined forces with the Economic Development Council of Tallahassee and Leon County (EDC) to set up an Advanced Manufacturing Training Center (AMTC). The AMTC, once approved by TCC's trustees, will be established in an existing building on the college's Appleyard Drive campus.

"What we have discovered is that there are more manufacturing opportunities in Tallahassee than we have imagined," Chapin said.

The training site would be considered a literal "one-stop shop" to



Democrat files

**TCC continues to expand its workforce development programs. On Monday administrators announced an initiative to open an Advanced Manufacturing Training Center that could bring 200 jobs to the Big Bend.**

train personnel, Chapin said. In addition, it will attract manufacturers to the region, he said.

"The Advanced Manufacturing Training

Please see TCC, 2A

## TCC

From Page 1A

Center will serve as a valuable resource for all manufacturers in this region," said Beth Mann Pace, TCC's manufacturing-technology program specialist. "Not only will it provide customized training for current employees, but it will help create a pool of technically trained manufacturing candidates."

Chapin said, "Right now (manufacturers) are so diffuse, you don't know they are here."

The EDC reports 22 companies are actively engaged in manufacturing activity in the area. In the past 18 months 31 new companies have expressed interest in relocating to Gadsden, Leon or Wakulla counties.

Beth Kirkland, execu-

tive director of the EDC said, "The EDC is looking forward to working with TCC and the private sector businesses through our Capital Region manufacturer's roundtable to bring the center to life."

TCC received Department of Defense grants totaling \$1.8 million to equip, operate and staff the center.

According to TCC officials, grant dollars, student fees

and tuition will help the college operate the center with a surplus at the end of five years.

TCC President Bill Law said renovation to the AMTC's future site will cost about \$1 million.

"There are no operating budget dollars associated with this project," Law said.



Law

## Our Opinion: Saluting TCC

### Manufacturing training center badly needed

It would no doubt surprise many residents to know that 37 area businesses are engaged in various kinds of manufacturing, not counting the factory known as your daily newspaper where a fresh product comes off the assembly line daily.

The Economic Development Council of Tallahassee and Leon County can direct you to listings of these enterprises online (please visit

You'll find most manufacturing falls under the categories of "aviation, aerospace, defense and national security." Among the well known are General Dynamics Land Systems and Syn-Tech Systems Inc., but many other enterprises (tools, hydraulics, pumps) emanate from the Tallahassee Regional Airport.

We salute EDC and **Tallahassee Community College** for seizing an opportunity to enhance this manufacturing sector in terms of job training and job creation.

The college, with the nod from its board of trustees in June and about \$1.8 million in federal Department of Defense grants, is launching its Advanced Manufacturing Training Center this summer. It is preparing to repurpose an existing building on the Appleyard Drive campus for classrooms, as well as incubator space that's badly needed to nurture potential small businesses.

According to EDC data, 31 companies with manufacturing and assembly functions have expressed interest in the last 18 months in relocating to the Gadsden-Leon-Wakulla region.

**TCC** Trustee Bill Hebrock, who is also on the board of Innovation Park along with **TCC** President **Bill Law**, described the synergy of this center with the goals of EDC and the expectations of **TCC** to not only educate students but also be involved in economic development of jobs for its graduates.

Mr. Hebrock said the board "acted swiftly because the federal money needs to be spent pretty quickly. This isn't stimulus money, but it's Obama administration annual funding aimed at job creation. We had the money and we needed a shovel-ready project."

The Hughes Building, an old equipment warehouse owned by Kim Williams, who is incoming EDC chairman, will be gutted and rebuilt to specifications needed for classrooms and the "wet lab" — a research lab where liquids and chemicals are used in basic research for products companies are trying to develop for market.

The job development will be twofold, with perhaps as many as 200 jobs involved, including those building and operating the facility, and even student interns working there. Thereafter, Mr. Hebrock said, what's notable is that "the facility will be on our campus for off-campus job creation." Within the next year, it is anticipated, the center will be in business, training **TCC** students and others for good jobs at some of our existing manufacturing businesses as well as others that may come into the community as a result of knowing a skilled workforce is being prepared.

A win-win plan, the Advanced Manufacturing Training Center will be coming along not a minute too soon.

## Look sharp if you want to see Tamanian exhibit at TCC

BY MARK HINSON  
DEMOCRAT SENIOR WRITER

It's not easy for abstract artist Paul Tamanian to take it easy.

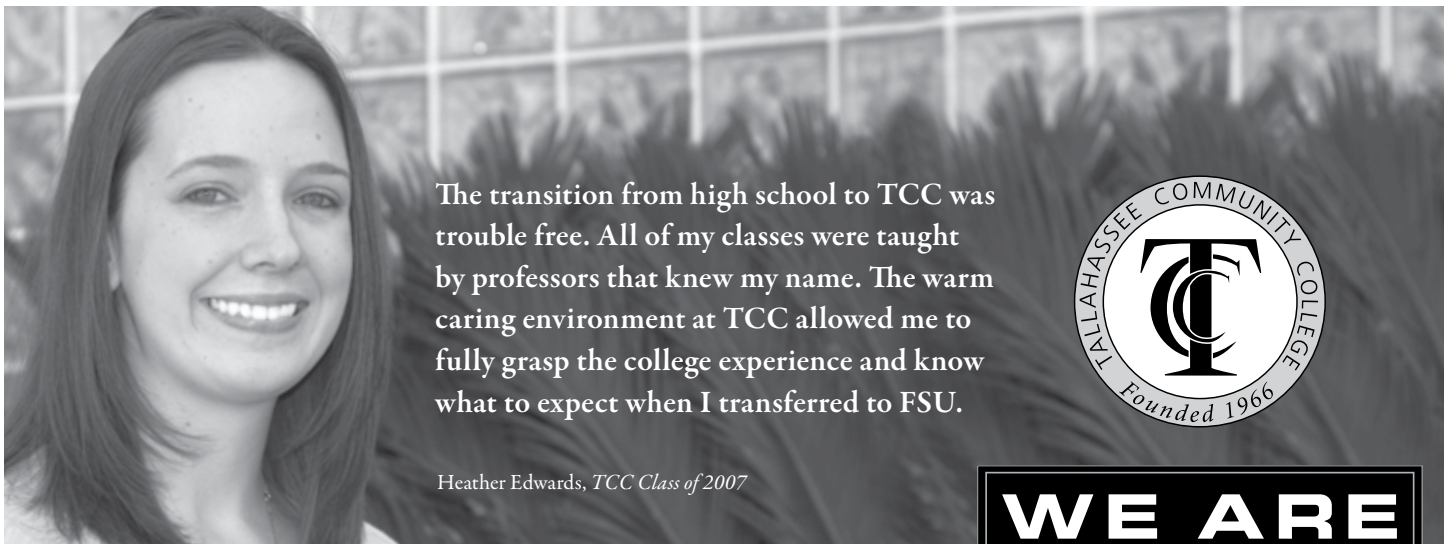
He talks fast. He walks fast. He drives fast. He thinks fast.

When the artist goes to work in his large, open-air garage studio in the woods of South Tallahassee, he cranks up the tunes full volume (Neil Young and Crazy Horse feedback fests are a fave). Then he attacks his aluminum-based paintings and sculptures with everything from automatic sanders to car-buffers to welding torches. The swirling surfaces of his artworks may contain any or all of the following: car paint, wallpaper paste, Elmer's Glue, Bondo putty, dish-washing detergent, cleaning agents, sand and even bugs who flit into the studio while Tamanian is in mad scientist mode.

"It's all about controlled chaos," Tamanian, 55, said recently as he walked around **Tallahassee Community College's** Fine Art Gallery, where "Paul Tamanian and Works from The Brandt Collection" is on view through Thursday. "See that red painting over there? It was on fire not that long ago."

Read more about artist Paul Tamanian in Sunday's Living & the Arts section, or check back here at Tallahassee.com.

## Tallahassee Democrat - July 12, 2009



The transition from high school to TCC was trouble free. All of my classes were taught by professors that knew my name. The warm caring environment at TCC allowed me to fully grasp the college experience and know what to expect when I transferred to FSU.

Heather Edwards, *TCC Class of 2007*



**WE ARE**  
the college experience

High quality education | Affordable tuition

**High Quality Education | Affordable Tuition**

## Economic development starts with support for local small business

### Special to Business Matters

The success of small business is a vital component of this region's overall economic wellbeing. But as challenges to growth continue to mount, it becomes increasingly important to take advantage of available resources and programs designed to support a healthy business community.

While the Greater Tallahassee Chamber of Commerce focuses on providing hands-on tools, advocacy and networking opportunities, it is the Economic Development Council of Tallahassee/Leon County, a program of the Chamber, that works on the retention, expansion and recruitment of industry in our region. And although relocating businesses gets the most press, the majority of its efforts are spent investing in the success of existing businesses.

"Adding new companies that are a good fit for our community is certainly important, but the overwhelming majority of job growth comes from expanding local businesses," said EDC Executive Director Beth Kirkland. "Our First Focus on Local Business initiative has proven to be extremely successful in helping to make that happen."

First Focus, which helps local companies expand facilities, create or retain jobs and guide industry workforce development initiatives, concentrates its efforts on growing existing industry within four targeted sectors: Aviation, Aerospace, Defense, and National Security; Health Science and Human Performance Enhancement; Renewable Energy and Environment; and Transportation and Logistics Services. Also included are two strategic support clusters: Information Technology Services, and Research and Engineering.

To connect industry leaders within each sector and cluster, the EDC has organized roundtables, regular meetings for industry stakeholders to share training opportunities, best practices, and make sure they are aligned with national trends and forward thinking, according to Travis Yelverton, the EDC's director of existing industry development.

"Important issues are presented, and it allows these industry leaders to connect the dots between national trends, state legislative activities and what is happening here. We also track the grant funding and help local people learn what is available and when and how to get it," Yelverton said.

Making the most of available training dollars will be key to success this year as well, according to Yelverton.

"The benefits of cross-training and retraining existing workforce is especially important in tough times," he said. "In addition, these grants foster growth within our targeted industries to provide job opportunities in high-wage, high-growth sectors."

There is much going on in the region with the EDC's partnering organizations that will allow the EDC to bring these types of resources to existing industry. Recent examples of grant dollars flowing through EDC partners include:

- \$2.2 million from the American Recovery & Reinvestment Act to help stimulate the economy and provide employment and job training services to job seekers and employers throughout the country.
- EDC partner Workforce Plus is using the funds to serve the communities of Gadsden, Leon and Wakulla counties with programs for employed workers as well as on-the-job training. For information on WORKFORCE Plus' Reinvest Local program, visit <http://www.wfplus.org/reinvestlocal>.
- \$580,000 from Workforce Florida for the Florida STEM Council, a statewide initiative to strengthen the science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) skills of Florida's students as a way to address the increasing demand for jobs requiring strong foundations in these areas. The EDC is implementing the use of those funds on the local level.
- \$135,387 from Florida's Great Northwest and matched by **Tallahassee Community College** for the development of an information technology training program for earning Microsoft Business Certification. "Our programs are impacting workers seeking training with computer skills or upgrading their skills," said John Chapin, **TCC** vice president for workforce development. "They are short-term programs, with a focus on workforce-driven skill training."

### Strategic Planning Workshop

If you are interested in helping plan the state's economic future, you are invited to participate in a strategic planning workshop sponsored by Florida's Great Northwest and Enterprise Florida Inc. The Tallahassee meeting will be held at the **TCC** Capitol Center, 300 W. Pensacola St., on July 30 from 1 to 4 p.m.

For more information, contact the EDC's Nicole Singletary at [nsingletary@taledc.com](mailto:nsingletary@taledc.com) or 521-3106.

## Summer Olympics benefits youth

BY AMANDA NALLEY

DEMOCRAT STAFF WRITER

More than 800 middle-and high-school students will run, jump and play for the chance to place in the 40th Annual Florida Association of Educational Opportunity Program Personnel (FAEOPP) Summer Olympics July 16-18.

The event, which will include more than 20 academic and sporting events, is a partnership of the Florida State University Center for Academic Retention and Enhancement (CARE) and FAEOPP.

Participating students will be from programs including Florida A&M University's Upward Bound, **Tallahassee Community College's** College Reach Out Program, **Tallahassee Community College's** Educational Talent Search and Gear Up, a national program hosted by **TCC** and FAMU that helps students prepare for college through classes.

"What a wonderful event through which to highlight the academic and physical talents of some of our most deserving youth," said Angela Richardson, director of the CARE program at Florida State, in a news release.

The games will begin with opening ceremonies at 1:30 p.m. Thursday, July 16 at Tully Gym on FSU's campus and ending at 3 p.m.

Activities on Friday, July 17 will be at East Gadsden High School.

All events are free and open to the public.

CARE provides support to students who are the first in their generation to attend college or who have economic, educational or cultural challenges.

FAEOPP works to help Florida students who are the first-generation to attend college and are from low-income families.

For information contact Jovany Felix at 644-9279 or [jfelix@admin.fsu.edu](mailto:jfelix@admin.fsu.edu) or Levia Wiley-Jackson at 644-9699 or [lwiley-jackson@admin.fsu.edu](mailto:lwiley-jackson@admin.fsu.edu).

## Engineering & Information Technology Scholarships

### Florida's Great Northwest funds to Northwest Florida Post-Secondary Institutions

Florida's Great Northwest announces its investment in certificate and degree programs in information technology (IT) and engineering at seven Northwest Florida post-secondary institutions. Participating in the scholarship program are the University of West Florida, Pensacola Junior College, Northwest Florida State College, Gulf Coast Community College, Chipola College, **Tallahassee Community College**, and Florida State University. Through its post-secondary education scholarship program, Florida's Great Northwest is awarding two grants, totaling \$1,150,000, to be used for scholarships to aid in developing a qualified IT and engineering workforce within the region.

Research conducted by Florida's Great Northwest has identified the business sectors of information technology and engineering as critical support industries for growing a knowledge-based economy in Northwest Florida and for supporting the growth in technology-based businesses such as aerospace and defense, medical technologies, health services and renewable energy. This grant award is a response to the workforce deficit in computing and engineering occupations in Northwest Florida as identified in a recent study conducted jointly by Florida's Great Northwest and the University of West Florida's Haas Center for Business Research and Economic Development. The study revealed a dramatic shortage of graduates from certification through graduate degrees in computer engineering, industrial engineering, computer specialist programs and engineering technician programs in Northwest Florida as well as at the state and national levels.

Furthermore, the study revealed sufficient IT and engineering courses are already offered throughout the region. The capacity at the region's colleges and universities exists, but there are not enough graduates from the programs to meet the region's growing demand. To address the issue, Florida's Great Northwest developed the post-secondary scholarship program to spur enrollment in the region's existing IT and engineering programs.

"IT and engineering are driving forces in the expansion of Northwest Florida's increasingly high-tech, knowledge-based industries," said Al Wenstrand, president of

Florida's Great Northwest. "The businesses in the region have identified a critical workforce need, confirmed by the Haas Center study. Through partnerships between Florida's Great Northwest and the region's post-secondary institutions, we are attempting to meet that need by growing a workforce from within Northwest Florida." "Growing our own talent in high-wage, high-skill occupations is a long-term strategy that reflects a significant benefit for the citizens of Northwest Florida while creating a workforce that will meet the needs of the technology businesses that even in this recession are growing and demanding additional employees."

A unique six-college alliance, the Northwest Florida Consortium, comprised of the University of West Florida, Pensacola Junior College, Northwest Florida State College, Gulf Coast Community College, Chipola College and **Tallahassee Community College**, will use the grant to award approximately 378 scholarships to IT and engineering students. Eligible programs range from certification to master's degree and span programs such as Master of Science in Software Engineering and Database Systems, Associate's in Computer Engineering, Networking Services, Technical Support and as well as certificates in Technology Systems, Information Technology Management, Web Development and Computer Programming, among others. The consortium will match the \$1 million grant with \$2,631,935 for a total program investment of more than \$3.5 million.

"Our higher education consortium is pleased to receive this grant," said Judy Bense, president of the University of West Florida. "It will enable us to better serve our region in measurable ways as we seek to expand our knowledge-based economy. Our six institutions are committed to working together so we can provide streamlined and easier access to higher education and expand our ability to offer academic programs that will give our students a much greater opportunity to get a high-paying job with a great future right here in Northwest Florida."

*continued...*



## Engineering...

*continued*

"Just as rewarding as the scholarship program and its future impact on the regional workforce is the collaboration at the president and provost levels by the consortium's six regional institutions," said Wenstrand. "Our thanks and congratulations go to University of West Florida President Judy Bense who led the formation of the consortium, as well as to the presidents of the other five institutions." "The level of cooperation and coordination among the institutions is truly outstanding and deserves significant praise."

Florida State University's College of Communication and Information will utilize the funds to offer 50 scholarships for students seeking a Bachelor of Science degree in IT specializing in Computer Networking, Computer Security, General Computer Support, Web Design or Health Informatics. Florida State University will match the \$150,000 grant with \$153,016.

"The Florida State University is pleased to be a part of this effort to help strengthen the economic environment of the region," said Dr. Larry Dennis, dean of the College of Communication and Information. "Florida's Great Northwest's support enables us to provide scholarships to 50 students seeking careers in IT. This commitment to growing a high-tech economy is helping to develop and retain talent within our community."

At the seven colleges and universities, all of the scholarships will target students who plan to live and work in Northwest Florida upon graduation. Students pursuing an IT or engineering degree who are interested in these scholarship opportunities should contact each college for specific program information and requirements.

Northwest Florida Consortium are (from left to right): Dr. Ed Meadows (Pensacola Junior College), Dr. Gene Prough (Chipola College), Mr. Al Wenstrand (Florida's Great Northwest), Dr. Judy Bense (University of West Florida), Dr. Jill White (Northwest Florida State College), Dr. Jim Kerley (Gulf Coast Community College) and Mr. Fred Leopold (Community Bank and Florida's Great Northwest Board Chair).

Florida State University College of Communication and Information are (from left to right): Mr. Al Wenstrand (Florida's Great Northwest), Dr. Larry Dennis (Florida State University), Dr. Mark Jowett (Florida State University Panama City campus) and Mr. Fred Leopold (Community Bank and Florida's Great Northwest Board Chair).

Florida's Great Northwest provides regional leadership in economic and workforce development, serving 16 counties in Northwest Florida from Pensacola through Tallahassee. Its primary mission is the creation of a diversified and sustainable economy in Northwest Florida that creates nationally and globally competitive advantages for the development of key industry clusters, increases the income and prosperity of workers and families and preserves the region's vibrant quality of life.

Florida's Great Northwest is the administrator and facilitating organization for the U.S. Department of Labor WIRED (Workforce Innovation in Regional Economic Development) Grant. Florida's Great Northwest's WIRED Northwest Florida Initiative, funded in part through the U.S. Department of Labor, is designed to create high-wage, high-skill jobs within the region in the four target industries of Aviation, Aerospace, Defense and National Security; Health Sciences and Human Performance Enhancement; Renewable Energy and Environment; Transportation and Logistics Services; and the two strategic support industries of Information Technology Services and Research and Engineering.

Note: This program is funded through Florida's Great Northwest's WIRED Northwest Florida Initiative which is funded in part through a U.S. Department of Labor Federal grant program and financed with Federal Funds.

## TCC hosts a composite materials workshop for Leon County school teachers

### TCC News Release:

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. (July 15, 2009) - **Tallahassee Community College's** Center for Workforce Development recently hosted a composite materials workshop for Leon County school teachers. The workshop, held at Cobb Middle School, focused on the introduction to the science of composite materials and included information on composite materials careers.

"The workshop introduced teachers to general composite material concepts with the intention to provide engineering and advanced materials and career information to area middle and high school science and technology educators to include in their classroom curriculum," said Beth Mann Pace, Manufacturing Technology Program Specialist and Workshop Coordinator. "Participants took part in a hands-on project

that assisted in learning the basic science of composite materials and the unique properties of composite technology."

Learning methods included hands-on lab scenarios and the opportunity to build a light weight composite material project.

To supplement classroom learning, the educators participated in a field trip to the Composite Materials Lab at Florida State University. Participants were also introduced to composite manufacturing and future job possibilities in the field of composite materials.

**TCC** is currently holding the camp for high school students. The first week ends Friday, July 17. A second session will be held July 27-31.

## Obama's New Plan Gives Community Colleges Billion Dollar Boost

### Reporter: Stephanie Salvatore

EMAIL ADDRESS: STEPHANIE.SALVATORE@WCTV.TV

Community colleges across America are about to receive twelve billions dollars.

It's all part of President Obama's new plan called the American Graduation Initiative, which will help 5 million people graduate from community colleges in the next 10 years.

"We also know that in the coming years, jobs requiring at least an associate degree are projected to grow twice as fast as jobs requiring no college experience. We will not fill those jobs - or keep those jobs here in America - without the training offered by community colleges," said President Obama.

**TCC** is one community college that has seen a huge jump in enrollment, and administration says cost and convenience are the driving forces.

"It gives that opportunity for those individuals who really do just want to enhance, you know what they have previously learned, or maybe to add on some skill sets. Community college gives that flexibility, that it doesn't have to take 3,4,5 years to do that," says Sheri Rowland,

dean of enrollment services at Tallahassee Community Service.

Part of the deal is to expand Perkins loans and make it easier to get financial aid.

"If they give me more financial aid, I can get signed up for more classes. Right now, I only got 4 classes and that just killed all my financial aid," says Antwan Guyton, a sophomore working on getting his associates degree.

The plan will not only help students who are on their way to a four year college, but also adults hoping to finish fast and get into the job market.

The initiative will also back two-point-five billion dollars in loans to renovate and rebuild college classrooms and buildings.

President Obama wants to replace the subsidized student loan program with loans through the Education Department.

Congress is expected to take up legislation on that proposal soon.

## Florida's Unemployment Rate Rising

Posted By: Taren Reed

TALLAHASSEE, FL -- Florida's unemployment rate reached a 30-year high, according to a release from the Agency for Workforce Innovation.

The state's unemployment rate is 10.6%, which is .3% higher than the previous month. That means about 970,000 Floridians are unemployed in the state's labor force of 9,192,000 workers.

Florida's rate remains 1.1 % higher than the national average of 9.5%.

That means more money is being dished out in unemployment compensation benefits. In fact, they indicated that \$100 million will be paid to more than 60,000 by the end of the day Friday.

### Marketability

With unemployment at a 30-year high, Floridians like Jamie Forth are looking for ways to make themselves more marketable.

Forth has been a technical writer for about 15 years. But she's drafting a new chapter in her career by learning about graphic design.

"The big goal is to add to my skill set so that I can be more marketable," said Forth.

She was laid off almost a year ago.

"As a writer and an editor, that's a really good skill set but if you're a writer and editor with graphic design skills, that just expands the market that you can search too," said Forth.

She's taking a graphic design class at [Tallahassee Community College](#) for half the price!

### Free & Discounted Job Training

It's one of many job training opportunities for unemployed and underemployed Floridians through the Agency for Workforce Innovation.

"The services offered at the One Stop Career Centers are actually tailored for the local areas, they work very closely with their business partners and other partners throughout their area to make sure that the services they offer and the training they offer are very pertinent to those areas," said Robby Cunningham, Communications Director with Florida's Agency for Workforce Innovation.

Job training and education availability vary on a number of factors including where you live, what educational resources are available, and what businesses are looking for employees in your area.

### One Stop Career Centers

There are 88 One Stop Centers across the state where you can learn about the most sought-after jobs in your area, job training, and resume building.

[CLICK HERE](#) to find more information online about your local Career Center and training opportunities.

Portia Thomas teaches graphic design and has noticed a different dynamic among her students since unemployment rates began rising.

"These people are highly motivated....they intend to get the skill no matter what it takes...they will stop me 3,000 times if they have to in order to learn it because they need it," said Thomas.

Jamie Forth hopes the job training will help her build a better career.

"There are certain programs but you have to inquire about them, they don't advertise it," said Forth.

## StarMetro Route Changes Effective August 1

### CITY OF TALLAHASSEE NEWS RELEASE

Metro, the City of Tallahassee's mass transit system, will change several routes effective Saturday, August 1.

These include the addition of two new routes and revisions to eight existing routes. The changes also include the elimination of four routes, but by consolidating the overall system, passengers will be accommodated through use of the new or existing routes.

"With these service improvements, our patrons will experience increased efficiency and on-time performance, while also reaching new customers," said Ronald Garrison, StarMetro Executive Director.

Specific details on the route changes effective August 1 are available on the City's website at [Talgov.com/StarMetro](http://Talgov.com/StarMetro). A general summary of the changes follows:

Route 1 – revised to cover portions of discontinued route 9; revised route will include segment from Portland Ave. at Old Bainbridge Rd. to High Rd. at W. Tharpe St.



Angel Jackson, 17, steps on bus number 25 at the Governor's Square Mall on Wednesday. Ana Goni-Lessan/Democrat (Ana Goni-Lessan/Democrat)

Route 3 – to be discontinued, but coinciding with new routes 53 and 54 that will provide improved service to **Tallahassee Community College** students and new service to the Ghazvini Learning Center and other offices along Blountstown Highway.

Route 9 – to be discontinued (see route 1 information).

Route 10 – to be discontinued, but coinciding with route 18 that will provide more direct service along Mahan Dr. and Capital Circle N.E.



Route 12 – extends service on Mahan Dr. to Weems Rd., to provide new park-and-ride options for Buck Lake and Fallschase area residents.

Route 18 – revised (see route 10 information), and will now operate Monday-Saturday.

Route 20 – revised to serve the High Magnetic Laboratory and adjacent offices in the Innovation Park complex; also adds an additional stop for Florida State University's Alumni Village.

Route 21 – revised to include service to W. Tennessee St., Capital Circle N.W. and Commonwealth Blvd. Discontinued service along Blountstown Highway and Mission Rd. to be absorbed by new routes 53 and 54.

Route 25 – revised from an hourly route to service every half-hour, including service to Governor's Square.

Route 26 – revised to add service along Paul Russell Rd., Orange Ave., Blair Stone Rd. and Old St. Augustine Rd.; will also discontinue service to Governor's Square and Winewood Complex.

Route 28 – revised to cover portions of discontinued route 35; will run along W. Pensacola St., Appleyard Dr., Jackson Bluff Rd. and Ausley Rd.

Route 35 – to be discontinued (see route 28 information).

Route 53 – new route (see route 3 information).

Route 54 – new route (see route 3 information).

For more information, please contact StarMetro at 891-5200 or visit [Talgov.com/StarMetro](http://Talgov.com/StarMetro).

## Robert Holladay: Behind 'the right stuff' were curious alliances

Robert Holladay

MY VIEW

Forty years ago last Thursday, my family sat in the darkness of a field reserved for NASA employees near Cape Canaveral (then Cape Kennedy) and watched the countdown for the launch of Apollo 11. We were there because my father was a scientist at the Marshall Space Flight Center in Huntsville, Ala., which built the huge Saturn V rocket that would propel the astronauts to the moon.

I was 14 years old, and what I remember most about the launch was how slowly the Saturn V lifted off, and how after about 30 seconds the sound rolled over you like a tidal wave. In those days, before cheap video equipment, we used a hand-held audio cassette recorder to catch the moment. After 40 years, that sound is still unbelievable. Four days later, we were roused out of bed to watch the first walk on the moon. We recorded that, too.

It certainly has not been dwelt on in all the celebration of the 40th anniversary of Apollo 11, but the entire space program was a wartime measure, a Cold War measure to be sure, but with every bit of the urgency of the Manhattan Project. One of the few writers to understand that was Tom Wolfe, whose book "The Right Stuff" remains the best contextual history of the early program.

But as with all projects that happen under the urgency of war, once the figurative (or literal) shooting stops, the soul-searching begins. Americans have gone through this with the treatment of Native Americans, or over the decision to drop the atomic bomb on Japan.

The same is true of the U.S. space program. Because swept under the rug in the hoopla over Apollo 11 (the same thing was true 10 years ago on the 30th anniversary) is the rather undeniable fact that the key factor in American success in the moon race was not American know-how and technology, but German.

Shortly after World War II, about 100 captured German scientists who had been instrumental in creating the first ballistic missiles (the V-1 and V-2), which were used in World War II against western Europe and Britain, were sent to the United States to bring that technology with them. Leading the scientists was a man whose name you have not heard in all of the Apollo celebrations: Wernher Von Braun.

Von Braun was a combination doer and dreamer, a practical scientist, who in a recent poll was named the

second most important person (behind the Wright Brothers) in the history of flight. Perhaps his most important role in the space race, besides harnessing the technical know-how to create the Saturn rockets, was as a charismatic salesman for the importance of space flight. He particularly charmed John F. Kennedy. My father, who worked with Von Braun in Huntsville, thought him the most impressive man he had ever worked with during his career.

The problem, of course, was Von Braun's and the other German's wartime activity. They worked for Hitler. Some were members of the Nazi Party. At least two biographies of Von Braun allege that he was either passively acquiescent in, or actively involved in, the selection of slave labor to work on the German rocket program.

All of this was rather carefully shielded from the public during the race for the moon, but once America got there first, things began to get uncomfortable. First, in 1970, Von Braun was shifted from Huntsville to NASA headquarters in Washington, where there was speculation that the most public spokesman for the program would head it officially. Instead, he was shunted into a largely ceremonial, bureaucratic position, and within a few years left the program for private industry.

Then several of his German scientists began to be investigated for their wartime activities, and at least one was deported and lost his citizenship. Von Braun died in 1977, but it is highly likely that if he had lived, the same thing would have happened to him. When Von Braun was on his deathbed, President Gerald Ford was urged to give him the Presidential Medal of Freedom for his work in space, but adviser David Gergen nixed the idea.

None of this is to excuse Von Braun, but it is an attempt to fill a significant gap in the celebration over Apollo. Wartime urgencies can create difficult alliances. It is after the war is over that we have to explain our actions. Still, the refusal to acknowledge Von Braun's role — and that of the German scientists — in the moon program strikes me as both dishonest and dishonorable.

Additional Facts

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Robert Holladay is an adjunct in the History Department at [Tallahassee Community College](#). Contact him at [senor100@earthlink.net](mailto:senor100@earthlink.net).

## TCC shares biotechnology lessons with Gadsden County students

### TCC News Release:

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. (July 22, 2009) - **Tallahassee Community College's** Talent Search Grant is providing Gadsden County students with an introduction to the field of biotechnology.

Students from East Gadsden and West Gadsden High Schools are at **TCC** through Tuesday, July 28 to participate in a series of workshops, ranging from paleontology activity to DNA testing.

**TCC's** Educational Talent Search Program, initiated in 2006 as a result of a grant from the U.S. Department of Education, serves 600 at-risk youth in Gadsden County. The grant enables **TCC** to provide academic, career and financial counseling to the students while encouraging them to graduate high school and enroll in postsecondary education programs.

Under the leadership of associate professor of biology Anthony Jones, the workshops consist of two experiments. In the first, students actually saw DNA by carrying out an isolation/extraction of DNA from

cells lining their cheeks. The second experiment will transform the classroom into a virtual set of the popular television series, CSI, as students will become crime scene investigators and conduct a forensics lab.

In addition to Jones' lecture and lab work in the area of biotechnology, faculty member John Schultz will offer students a presentation in paleontology activity. The interactive earth science activity will allow students to pan through actual Paleozoic rock and sediment to locate authentic marine fossils.

Schultz' presentation was funded by the **TCC** Foundation's College Innovation Fund.

Jones' CSI lab will take place on Thursday, July 23 and Tuesday, July 28 from 10:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Meanwhile, Schultz' presentation debuted on Wednesday and will be repeated on Monday afternoon.

For more information, contact Anthony Jones at (850) 201-8103.

The Gadsden County Times and Havana Herald - July 23, 2009  
Tallahassee Democrat - August 5, 2009



TCC's Drafting Design and Technology program offers challenging courses and real time hands-on experience. I have no doubt I will be ready to enter the job market with the professional skills that I need.

Rodney Broussard,  
*A.S., Drafting and Design Technology,  
Class of '10*



**WE ARE**  
the workforce experience

High quality education Affordable tuition Flexible schedules

Prepare for your career with  
**Cutting Edge Technology and Instruction**

## Mayor John Marks Gets Roasted '09

**Reporter: Heather Biance**

EMAIL ADDRESS: HEATHER.BIANCE@WCTV.TV

Tallahassee Mayor John Marks was in the hot seat Thursday night and the joke was on him.

It was all a part of the twelfth annual "Roast and Toast" put on by the Capital Chapter of the Florida Public Relations Association.

Our very own Julie Montanaro, Representative Alan Williams, County commissioner Bryan Desloge, attorney Sean Pitmman and daughter-in-law Cristina Velez all helped roast the Mayor.

We caught up with Mayor Marks before the evening kicked off to see how his nerves were holding out.

"Last year, I was one of the roasters in this event. So now being roasted, is a little bit different. But, it's for a good cause," says Mayor John Marks.

The annual event raises money for scholarships for communications and journalism students at FAMU and FSU.

Since the roasting began 12 years ago, more than \$28,000 dollars have gone towards those scholarships.

Organizers say **Bill Law**, President of **Tallahassee Community College** has already accepted his invitation to be next year's man in the spotlight.

## Local Teachers Learn New Science Projects

**Reporter: Stephanie Salvatore**

EMAIL ADDRESS: STEPHANIE.SALVATORE@WCTV.TV

Teachers from Havana Elementary got the chance to be students for the week.

Using funds from the Motorola Innovation Generation Grant, science teachers for grades 1 to 5 did some hands on learning at **TCC**.

Some of the projects they did included building a dinosaur egg and making a diorama about where the dinosaurs lived.

Part of the 18,000 dollar grant will go towards purchasing supplies for the teachers so they can do these projects with their students at Havana Elementary.

The teachers say it will help them go outside of regular textbook lessons.

"We did some things with other professors on campus so it kind of brought a lot more to the table than what we already have," says Shaenterria McLaurie, a fifth grade science teacher at Havana Elementary.

The program hopes to eventually help students at the middle and high schools.

## Law: TCC positioned to compete for portion of \$12 billion in federal funds

BY ANGELINE J. TAYLOR  
DEMOCRAT STAFF WRITER

About \$12 billion will be available to community-college officials throughout the country as part of U.S. President Barack Obama's 10-year plan to invest in the two-year institutions.

**Tallahassee Community College** is poised to apply for the dollars that, if obtained, could be used for several programs.

**TCC** President **Bill Law** said, "When I heard the president speak, the things he's talking about are things **TCC** has been working on pretty diligently."

WCTV - July 24, 2009

## TCC's Dental Assisting Students All Receive 100% Passing Rate

Reporter: Stephanie Salvatore  
EMAIL ADDRESS: STEPHANIE.SALVATORE@WCTV.TV

They're all smiles at Tallahassee Community College.

Dental assisting students have achieved a 100 percent pass rate on their exam.

Most dental assisting students in the nation do not even take the exam because it's optional, and expensive.

But a grant gave students the opportunity to not only take the exam, but an extra certification to help in their careers.

"What's valuable about the certification exam is that it's one more piece of credentials that a dental assisting student would have so in case they move to another state that requires the certification in order work, they have that piece already with them," says Lois Ewen, dean of health care professions at **TCC**.

Four students already have jobs in the community, one is going to attend dental school, and five will be entering **TCC's** dental hygiene program in the fall.



The grads are: Noreaka Bell, Erin Wyman, Sharona Bowman, Dana Hila, Emily Barr, Chiquita Wallace, Brittney Curry, Carmen Skipworth, Carly Hillier, Karen Unis.

The certification exam that the students took was the Dental Assisting

National Board's Certified Dental Assistant (CDA) exam.





Jude "JP" Paul, TCC Class of 2008

## Flexible Schedules and Online Classes

I was able to work 30 – 35 hours a week while attending TCC as a full time student. TCC's flexible class schedule allowed me to stay on track to graduate on time and transfer to FSU.



**WE ARE**  
the college experience

High quality education    Affordable tuition

**Register for Summer & Fall Classes Now!**

Tallahassee Community College | 444 Appleyard Drive | GoToTCC.com | 201-TCC1

Tallahassee Democrat - July 25, 2009

## Obama plan to benefit TCC

### Proposed \$12B will expand two-year community colleges over 10 years

By Angeline J. Taylor  
DEMOCRAT STAFF WRITER

About \$12 billion will be available to community colleges throughout the country due to U.S. President Barack Obama's recent unveiling of a 10-year plan to invest in two-year institutions. And **Tallahassee Community College** is poised to apply for the funding.

**TCC** President **Bill Law** said, "When I heard the president speak, the things he's talking about are things **TCC** has been working on pretty diligently."

Obama spoke of building technology upgrades and increasing student success in such a way that two-year institutions could produce five million more graduates and play a leading role in rebuilding the economy.

The money would be used for four initiatives: challenge grants for underfunded colleges, performance-based scholarships, renovation and modernization projects and more online courses.

**Law** and Barbara Sloan, **TCC** vice president of academic affairs, explained where the college is in meeting those goals.

Sloan said the college will soon offer about 20 percent of the school's credit hours online. Over the last five years,

online studies at **TCC** have grown by 48 percent. In the last two years, **TCC** enjoyed a 20-percent increase in the number of students enrolled in online courses.

"We're now in a position where a student can get an entire associate degree online," **Law** said.

To do that, student-support services will have to be increased. Counselors and tutorial services for distance learners will be hired, Sloan said.

**Law** said, "Our definition of student success is students finish what they start."

That definition coincides with Obama's plan, according to Sloan. She said retention has been a problem with community colleges. For that reason, more accountability is being requested and will likely be rewarded through a competitive grant process.

"We're developing a more robust system with tracking outcomes," Sloan said.

Six million students are enrolled in community colleges. **TCC** enrolled about 14,000 students in the spring.

USA Today and CNN contributed to this report.

## Update: Gadsden County students get upclose look at DNA testing

### Democrat Staff Report

Faces filled with curiosity and awe watched **Tallahassee Community College** associate professor Anthony Jones Tuesday.

Jones, a biology professor, taught a class of five Gadsden County middle schoolers about isolating DNA from cell lining in their cheeks. It served as one of a few assignments done by Jones and the students since last week.

About 20 students took part in a series of workshops ranging from paleontology to DNA testing. The students were being introduced to the field of biotechnology as part of the Talent Search Grant, a \$1.1 million federal grant provided to **TCC** over a five-year period.

"Most of our students are low-income, first-generation college students," said Senovia Williams, program specialist with Educational Talent Search. "It's an opportunity to give students exposure, support – not just to achieve their academic goals but beyond high school."

Students appeared to flourish in the program. They took part in their own version of the popular television show CSI learning about instruments used in crime scene investigations and forensics labs. "I like actually doing science," 13-year-old Tavonna Bell said. "We don't really do it in school."

Thirteen-year-old Ronald Vickers explained.

He said, "We listen to teachers or we work more out of the book."

Jones said the students seemed to enjoy seeing the same instruments and work that is done on the popular television shows like CSI.

"Students didn't know DNA was able to give them so much information," Jones said.

Faculty member John Schultz' also offered a presentation on paleontology – the study of fossils.

### Morning update

**Tallahassee Community College's** Talent Search Grant is providing Gadsden County students with an introduction to the field of biotechnology.



Vashon York, 13, isolates DNA for testing in the students' crime scene investigation lab. (Below) **Tallahassee Community College's** associate professor, Anthony Jones, teaches students Ronald Vickers (left) and Tavonna Bell (center) about isolating DNA. (Angeline J. Taylor/Tallahassee Democrat)



Students from East Gadsden and West Gadsden High Schools are at **TCC** to participate in a series of workshops, ranging from paleontology activity to DNA testing.

**TCC's** Educational Talent Search Program, initiated in 2006 as a result of a grant from the U.S. Department of Education, serves 600 at-risk youth in Gadsden County. The grant enables **TCC** to provide academic, career and financial counseling to the students while encouraging them to graduate high school and enroll in postsecondary education programs.

## Gadsden County Students Participate In Biotechnology Labs At TCC

**Reporter: Lauren Searcy**

EMAIL ADDRESS: LAUREN.SEARCY@WCTV.TV

A group of local students are strapping on the gloves and goggles to solve a case of "who done it."

The kids from Gadsden County are participating in a series of DNA workshops at **TCC**.

Solving crimes with DNA. That's what these middle school students are learning to do at **TCC**. But they also had the chance to toy around with paleontology and other bio technologies.

"These experiments that we did we can like isolate our own DNA, make necklaces, find fossils and be able to keep the fossils," said Ronald Vickers, a lab student.

The DNA lab was by far the crowd favorite. Actually participating helped the students fully grasp the concepts.

"When they get the chance to actually do it hands on, it makes the learning experience more real, more tangible. the students are able to see how this relates to their everyday lives," said Anthony Jones, an associate professor of Biology at **TCC**.

"At school we don't have experiments like this where we really get to do hands on stuff. At school, he's just like explaining it to us, but here we can actually do it," said Tavonna Bell, a lab student.

The students spent two days in the lab swabbing cheek cells and testing DNA samples. That was quite a surprise to them because on t.v., they make it look so easy.

This camp was funded by a grant from the U.S. Department of Education that supports more than 600 at-risk youth in Gadsden County.

## Envision Credit Union establishes the Dorothy Binger Scholarship

### TCC News Release:

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. (July 29, 2009) - Former **Tallahassee Community College** employee Dorothy "Dot" Binger has a long history of impacting young people. In 1966, she was the third employee hired at what was then known as Tallahassee Junior College and she eventually served as head of the Business Department and was later Director of the Division of Applied Sciences at **TCC**.

Since retiring from the College in 1997, she has been a tireless volunteer with the Guardian Ad Litem program, serving as an advocate for children who are under court jurisdiction because of abuse, neglect or abandonment. In fact, two years ago, she was named one of Florida's top five mentors by the Florida Mentoring Partnership, an alliance of organizations across Florida managed by the Volunteer Florida Foundation.

Her volunteer service has also extended into the Tallahassee community and to Envision Credit Union, where she has served a total of 25 years on its Board of Directors. Thanks to Envision, Binger will continue to impact students' lives for years to come.

Binger recently completed her second term on Envision Credit Union's Board of Directors. At Envision's 2009

Annual Meeting, Binger was honored for her many years of service. But, rather than receiving a plaque, she learned that Envision Credit Union had established a scholarship in her name.

During the meeting, former Florida legislator and former executive director of the **TCC** Foundation Marjorie Turnbull announced that the Credit Union had funded the Dorothy Binger Scholarship, recognizing Binger's involvement in the Guardian Ad Litem program.

"Dot inspires all of us to do more to make this community a better place in which to live," said Marcia Hilty, Circuit Director, Second Circuit Guardian Ad Litem Program. "I can think of no person more deserving of this honor."

The Dorothy Binger Scholarship will be awarded annually to a **TCC** student who is part of the State's Child Protection System. Prospective scholarship recipients must write an essay demonstrating an interest in assisting peers, leadership and community involvement, must demonstrate financial need and will be required to maintain a minimum 2.5 GPA.

For more information on the Dorothy Binger Scholarship, contact the **TCC** Foundation at (850) 201-8580.

## Havana Herald - July 30, 2009

## TCC SHARES BIOTECHNOLOGY LESSONS WITH GADSDEN COUNTY STUDENTS

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. (July 22, 2009) - **Tallahassee Community College's** Talent Search Grant is providing Gadsden County students with an introduction to the field of biotechnology.

Students from East Gadsden and West Gadsden High Schools are at **TCC** through Tuesday, July 28 to participate in a series of workshops, ranging from paleontology activity to DNA testing.

**TCC's** Educational Talent Search Program, initiated in 2006 as a result of a grant from the U.S. Department of Education, serves 600 at-risk youth in Gadsden County. The grant enables **TCC** to provide academic, career and financial counseling to the students while encouraging them to graduate high school and enroll in postsecondary education programs.

Under the leadership of associate professor of biology Anthony Jones, the workshops consist of two experiments. In the first, students actually saw DNA by carrying out an isolation/extraction of DNA from

cells lining their cheeks. The second experiment will transform the classroom into a virtual set of the popular television series, CSI, as students will become crime scene investigators and conduct a forensics lab.

In addition to Jones' lecture and lab work in the area of biotechnology, faculty member John Schultz will offer students a presentation in paleontology activity. The interactive earth science activity will allow students to pan through actual Paleozoic rock and sediment to locate authentic marine fossils.

Schultz' presentation was funded by the **TCC** Foundation's College Innovation Fund.

Jones' CSI lab will take place on Thursday, July 23 and Tuesday, July 28 from 10:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Meanwhile, Schultz' presentation debuted on Wednesday and will be repeated on Monday afternoon.

For more information, contact Anthony Jones at (850) 201-8103.

## Group shows students life beyond Tennessee Street

**Matt Oglesby**

CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Where has all the talent gone? The short answer is that it is everywhere but here in Tallahassee. Why? That's what the Knight Creative Communities Institute works to find out.

"These days, young professionals choose where they want to live before whom they work for," Knight Creative Communities Institute Program Director Mike Pate said. "So a lot of the conversation revolves around the kind of place your community is. Does it have things to do and places to go that encourage students and creative individuals to stay in the community after graduation? That's what the Knight Creative Communities Institute is all about — identifying these possibilities and moving Tallahassee in that direction. And clearly, with 40,000 students, FSU is a major component."

KCCI is currently conducting a study to find out how to retain talent in Tallahassee, according to Pate.

"We have a study in the field right now, handled by a company called Collegia, which compares the percentage of students who stay in the community to the percentage that leave," Pate said. "And then, as part of that same study, they assess why students make these decisions and formulate a set of recommendations, based on what students tell us, that indicate how we might change the community to make Tallahassee more attractive. In many respects we've found it comes down to the town and gown relationship."

In many instances individuals come to Tallahassee, complete their degrees and then leave to settle down and pursue careers in more lucrative cities.

The Knight Foundation, a national organization devoted to journalistic excellence as well as community revitalization, aims to change that. In January 2007, Tallahassee was selected by the Knight Foundation as one of three cities nationwide to receive funding for community-driven initiatives that create organizations, events and projects aimed at catalyzing a new, sustainable economy.

"The volunteer groups that work on these projects are, in fact, called community catalysts," Pate said. "The whole idea is to select a group of 31 individuals best suited to determine the sorts of things we might change in the community to make it more attractive to young professionals. We don't aim to overlay a template that says, this is what Tallahassee will be. The area will define itself. It will be whatever the community makes itself. Our responsibility is nurturing the community from underneath. It could go a variety of different directions. It's the catalysts' job to lay the groundwork."

The crux of KCCI's economic stimulus rests on research conducted by Richard Florida, a professor of Business and Creativity at the University of Toronto and author of the national bestseller *The Rise of the Creative Class*.

Florida's Creative Class Group, partnered with the Knight Foundation, found that those working in the creative sector — which encompasses technological, managerial and education-based fields, as well as arts related fields — account for nearly 50 percent of U.S. workforce wages. Florida's theory proposes that nurturing creativity, more than anything else, spells economic prosperity.

It's not nutrition Tallahassee lacks. With Florida State University, **Tallahassee Community College** and Florida A&M University all within a 10-mile radius, Tallahassee has an abundance of latent talent. This project is aimed at stopping the brain drain.

"The industry is here," Pate said. "The brainpower is here. The question is: How do you bring that out? How do we encourage and nurture our academic and creative communities in ways that get students thinking about Tallahassee as the kind of place they'd like to one day open a business? Right now, students live their lives solely on campus. Our job is to find ways to encourage students to venture out and discover other areas of Tallahassee — the areas of Tallahassee that really make it a community. Because Tallahassee is not just Tennessee Street."

The disparity between the Tallahassee that natives call home and the city in which college students temporarily reside is vast.

*continued...*

## life beyond Tennessee...

*continued*

Surrounding campus are some of the most dangerous and dilapidated streets in the entire city. Frenchtown, one of Tallahassee's most crime-ridden neighborhoods, is just a few blocks away. The run-down visage of Tennessee and Ocala Streets doesn't offer up an appealing portrait of Tallahassee, nor does it provide an accurate representation. This image may explain, in part, why so many graduates decide to settle down elsewhere.

"As far as perception is concerned I definitely think there's a disparity between a student's experience at FSU and that of a young professional," KCCI Executive Director Laurie Hartsfield said. "That's what we're hoping to do with KCCI — bridge this gap. It's not going to happen with just three projects, it's not going to happen with the projects from this pilot program. But hopefully, after funding for another five years by the Knight Foundation, we'll end up with 15 to 20 really cool, innovative projects that will help make Tallahassee a community more attractive to young professionals."

Many of these projects have already begun producing palpable results.

"The first year the catalysts were charged with creating innovative projects that would attract the creative population," Hartsfield said. "The projects that came out of it — Get Gaines Going, Sustainable Tallahassee and the Tallahassee Film Festival — were aimed at enhancing livability. This year we're a bit more specific. The catalysts will be expected to come up with projects that prevent young professionals from even wanting to leave Tallahassee. And we definitely want to have students serve as catalysts this year. We'd love to have more student representation this time around."

Applications can be found at [www.tallahassee.com/kcci](http://www.tallahassee.com/kcci). More information is also available through the KCCI Facebook page as well as [kccitallahassee.wordpress.com](http://kccitallahassee.wordpress.com).

## \$15.5 Million for Local Defense Research

**Reporter: Heather Bianca**

EMAIL ADDRESS: HEATHER.BIANCE@WCTV.TV

Congressman Allen Boyd announced on Wednesday that \$15.5 million dollars will soon be split among the capital city's colleges to help fund defense-related research projects.

In a rare opportunity, the presidents of Florida A&M, Florida State and **Tallahassee Community College** were all in the same room, eager to discuss their plans for the money that could be coming their way very soon.

Congressman Allen Boyd, who's a member of the Defense Subcommittee in the House of Representatives, announced Wednesday that 15 and a half million dollars will go toward local defense research projects.

"To keep our military, the top military in the world, comes through that bill and is done at our major universities," U.S. Representative Allen Boyd.

But beyond the benefits of national security, they can all agree, these projects will also bring more jobs to the area.

"To provide an infrastructure. To help us offset the kinds of cuts we're seeing on our community could not be done without these particular earmarks," says **Tallahassee Community College** President Dr. **Bill Law**.

"What Congressman Boyd's doing is not just economic development. He's helping us raise the bars of our institutions," says FSU's President Dr. T.K. Wetherell.

\$5 Million dollars will go toward FSU's CAPS Program, who's project is providing the U.S. Navy with vital information on the design of an electric ship and its weapon power.

\$4 Million dollars will also go to FSU, but this time to enhance the performance of military vehicles through weight reduction and improved efficiency.

FAMU President Dr. James Ammons says the 6 Million dollars his university is expected to receive, will continue funding for improving and developing systems that detect IEDs or explosive devices. Ultimately protecting those on the frontlines.

**TCC's** \$500,000 will go toward an advanced technology training facility that will help in military technology and defense systems.

The bill has already been passed by the House and is currently going through the Senate.

From there, it will go to President Obama's desk, and if passed, the money could be seen as early as September 2009.

## Local colleges receiving defense grants

By Doug Blackburn  
DEMOCRAT SENIOR WRITER

Florida State and Florida A&M universities have endured sharp reductions in state funding over the past three years, but federal contracts and grants appear to be increasing for both schools.

U.S. Rep. Allen Boyd (D-Monticello) announced at a Wednesday news conference that the Defense Appropriations Act includes \$15.5 million for projects at FSU, FAMU and **Tallahassee Community College**. The House approved the bill last week, but it has yet to be taken up by the Senate.

FSU is scheduled to receive two contracts totaling \$9 million; FAMU is set to get \$6 million for one program; and **TCC** would receive \$500,000 for its new manufacturing center.

"These research projects will benefit the entire country," Boyd said, with the presidents of each college in attendance. "They also bring dollars to the local economy.

"We're in difficult times," he added. "Money's tight, to put it bluntly."

FSU President T.K. Wetherell said his university has benefitted greatly from approximately \$200 million in federal contracts and grants during the past year. The latest programs set to receive funding for defense projects include \$5 million for weapons on Navy ships and \$4 million for new technology for cooling military vehicles.

If approved by the Senate, FAMU's \$6 million grant is for ongoing work involving detection of IEDs, or improvised explosive devices.



With FSU President T. K. Wetherell, **TCC** President **Bill Law** and FAMU President James Ammons in back, Congressman Allen Boyd, representing the 2nd District of Florida, speaks at a press conference Wednesday, August 5, 2009 at the Florida Press Center in Tallahassee, Fla. Boyd secured a total of \$15.5 million through the House Appropriations Committee for defense research projects at FSU, FAMU and **TCC**. (PHIL SEARS/Democrat)

"This will help our servicemen and women in the field to help identify IEDs without having to be near them," FAMU President James Ammons said.

He noted that grants such as this provide much-needed jobs for staff and students at FAMU.

**TCC** trustees earlier this summer approved re-tooling an existing facility on the campus to be a manufacturing and industrial technology training center. **Bill Law**, **TCC's** president, said he hopes to be able to use the \$500,000 grant in early 2010, as soon as the facility is ready.

Boyd said he's hopeful the Defense Appropriations Act will make its way to President Obama no later than October.



## Lions learn about TCC

By Staff



**Tallahassee Community College** enrollment is up five to eight percent for the fall semester according to Vice President for Institutional Advancement/Foundation Executive Director Robin Johnston. Johnston spoke to the Wakulla Lions Club on Tuesday, July 28. Johnston stated **TCC** boasts more than 15,000 students with 54 buildings on their Tallahassee campus.

Johnston stated more than 50 percent of **TCC** transfer students transfer to FSU and noted the transfer is seamless with a two-year degree from **TCC** transferring as a junior at FSU.

This year **TCC** broke ground on its new health care education facility the Ghazvini Center for Health Care Education. The facility will consist of 85,000 square feet of state of the art health care education programs including a simulation center. Johnston encouraged club members to put the word out that **TCC** has many opportunities for Wakulla County students and adult returning students to get an education through the many programs offered. **TCC** has articulation agreements with Embry Riddle Aeronautical University, Barry University, St. Leo University and Flagler College so students can complete four-year degrees on **TCC's** campus and enjoy the benefit of all **TCC** services available.

## Updated: Program to help foster-care children who are 'aging out' get a shot at higher education

By TaMaryn Waters

DEMOCRAT STAFF WRITER

**Tallahassee Community College**, along with several child-advocacy agencies, has created a program that will give support to foster-care teens who have aged out of the system.

Five 18- and 19-year-old students will begin the program this Wednesday. It's a multi-year commitment by both the students and the program to ensure each student graduates with an associate degree — and possibly a bachelor's degree.

Brittany Gordon, a recent Godby High graduate, is beyond grateful.

"I feel like it can really be good for me," Gordon said, who plans to transfer to Florida A&M University to study journalism. "This is really big for a foster kid."

She's always wanted to attend college. But the 18 year old has been through what most children will never know. Her childhood is tied to eight years of being bounced to four homes.

Gordon's story is not an isolated case.

In Florida, there are 19,797 children in foster care as of July, according to the state's Adopt Florida program.

According to a 2007 report by Pew Charitable Trusts, 20 percent of foster-care children nationwide will pursue education beyond high school, but fewer than 3 percent graduate from college.

Child advocates say teens who age out need even more support compared to children who come from nuclear and single-parent families.

Groups such as Boys Town of North Florida, Disc Village and the state's Department of Children and Families have funneled their resources and expertise for **TCC's** Fostering Achievement Fellowship Program.

Anjel Trejocq, who recently retired after 35 years as an administrator at DCF, said each aspect of the program is meant to offer support.

"We started with trying to figure out what we could do as a community," Trejo said.

Robin Johnstoncq, vice president for Institutional Advancement at **TCC**, said the program is paid through a "blend" of resources from each agency.

It provides an academic coach and a mentor, along with other academic and financial-advisory help.

It also provides pay-for-grades incentives: \$15 for A's, \$10 for B's and \$5 for C's.

Johnston said it's not a lot of money, but "it promotes the right type of activity."

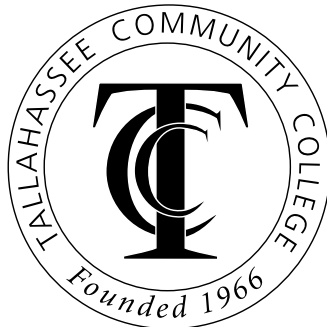
In order to participate, each student must have a tuition waiver and a stipend from the Road to Independence Program, which takes care of housing needs. Students are picked based on referrals.

The program has some requirements each student must fulfill, like having a mentor and going to monthly meet-and-greets.

For students like Gordon, it's a small price to pay.

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## Schools hope more mentors will reach out

### 'I learned I could help Mario with his dreams'

By TaMaryn Waters

DEMOCRAT STAFF WRITER

Their connection is impossible to ignore.

Even with the sun's meager attempt to puncture a blanket of gray skies and a threat of summer downpours looming, Virgil Elkins and Mario Williams faced-off in a spirited basketball game.

The sound of other boys yelling on different courts at the Jack McLean Community Center didn't bother them. Neither did the thumbing balls and shuffling sneakers against the pavement.

They were in the zone. They both see their time as precious. And their time is a chance for playful teasing, along with conversing on everything from school work to Mario's dreams.

For the fall, Leon County School officials want more students to have positive experiences like Mario has had. But they say more people have to commit to mentoring.

Elkins, 26-year-old psychology student at Florida A&M University, has been Mario's mentor for the past year through the Big Brothers/Big Sisters of the Big Bend. Mario's mother, Sharika Chase, said she sees a change in her son, who struggled with behavioral issues and now attends Pace Secondary School.

Chase said he was earning "in-between- and failing grades."

But, for the first time, the 13-year-old boy made the A/B honor roll year-round during the 2008-2009.

"I was like wow. This is terrific!," Chase said; her voice saturated with pride.

#### Impact of mentors

Opportunities for mentors are bountiful, according to mentor advocates.

Several local agencies — Boys and Girls Clubs of the Big Bend, Florida State University's America Reads/Mentor Program and others — offer ways to get involved. And, naturally, Leon County Schools welcomes those who are interested in helping a child, said Betsy McCauley, the district's volunteer specialist.



Ana Goni-Lessan/Democrat  
Mario Williams, 13, and his mentor Virgil Elkins, 26, play one-on-one at Jack L. McLean Jr. Community Center on July 23. (Ana Goni-Lessan/Democrat)

More than 1,000 mentors are involved in one of several mentor programs within the district, McCauley said. Some schools don't have a program.

Mentors go through a training process, McCauley said. District staffers work with volunteers to accommodate their schedules and where they'd like to be placed.

She said there doesn't tend to be a shortage of mentors for elementary schools. Though, mentors are often needed for middle- and high- school students.

McCauley said help is especially needed at "any school with a (grade) C or lower."

"Sometimes a stranger can impact a child when a parent is pulling their hair out," McCauley said. "Sometimes the stranger can work miracles."

Even Mario, who is also a member of the Boys' Choir of Tallahassee, considers himself to be one of those miracles.

He said he loved the feeling that rushed over him when he saw his report card for the first quarter. It got even better as the year went on.

"I look at myself like a new kid who turned around," he said, grinning ear-to-ear.

#### Need for mentors

In a perfect world, school officials and child advocates would rather have too many volunteers than not enough.

*continued...*

## Mentors...

*continued*

McCauley said mentors are needed for children who may be at risk for falling behind or dropping out, especially those who have been retained a grade or living in single-parent homes.

Men are in high demand, especially black men.

Even if someone wants to help, some say the hardest obstacle to clear is getting people to commit once they've started.

Wanda Lewis, a mentor coordinator for **Tallahassee Community College's** Take Stock in Children/College Reach program, said her group has 75 students enrolled from Leon, Gadsden and Wakulla counties. But she only has 25 to 30 active mentors.

"It's really difficult to get volunteers and keep them," Lewis said.

Leon County Superintendent Jackie Pons said mentors can be just what a child needs to flourish.

"I think that (mentors) give students someone to look up to who has been successful," Pons said. "I think it brings value to our educational system."

He said budget cuts have caused massive shortages, and mentors can help fill some of the void.

"We really need them all of the time," Pons said. "But we need them now more than ever."

### Gratitude

Chase wasn't surprised to hear Mario had a good time with Elkins during their basketball game.

She said Mario, who has two brothers ages 16 and 10, often comes back and reports what he and Elkins did on

one of their outings. It warms her heart.

"I feel like Virgil really cares about him," said Chase, 31, who works full time and is a part-time student at **Tallahassee Community College**. "I just hate that there aren't more Virgils around."

She's especially grateful since she knows Elkins has suffered from kidney failure. There were times he'd have to miss an outing because he was hospitalized.

Mario would worry because he didn't want to lose him.

But Elkins underwent a kidney transplant in May. So his health is improving.

Chase and Mario said they were grateful, but Elkins feels just as thankful as they do.

He said Mario has taught him the value in taking time for a child.

"The same kid you could have helped could be the same kid putting a gun to your head later," Elkins said.

But most of all, he said he feels like he's a part of something great when he listens to Mario's new zeal for achieving academic success.

With an electric smile, he said, "I learned I could help Mario with his dreams."

That's a lesson he'll never forget.

Contact reporter TaMaryn Waters at (850) 599-2162; e-mail [tlwaters@tallahassee.com](mailto:tlwaters@tallahassee.com); or [www.twitter.com/TaMarynWaters](http://www.twitter.com/TaMarynWaters)

## Student-body presidents eager to make difference

In a position of little glory, each will have to make the most of slim budgets, high demands

By Angeline J. Taylor  
DEMOCRAT STAFF WRITER

College students Robert Jakubik, Gallop Franklin and Darren Mason are collectively in charge of more than \$14 million.

They represent 67,000 students. And each agrees that he has his work cut out for him when students return to school later this month.

Jakubik, 21, is Florida State University's new student-body president, while Franklin, 21, and Mason, 19, hold the same positions at Florida A&M University and **Tallahassee Community College**, respectively.

Each hails from a different hometown. Each has a different major. But all share a passion for their school, and a desire to represent it well.

While the budgets for student government remain healthy, FSU, FAMU and **TCC** have endured drastic reductions in state revenue going into the new school year.

FSU has cut about \$36 million from its 2009-2010 budget. FAMU has cut about \$16.5 million from the coming year's budget; **TCC** has cut about \$2 million.

"I think we're going to have to lobby hard for higher education," Jakubik, a criminology and international-affairs student, said.

Franklin, a pharmacy student, added, "We have the cheapest tuition in the country. And we're still offering a high quality academic program."

The two agreed the answer to budget cuts is for students to have a united voice. A voice saying that higher education means something in the state of Florida. Jakubik said he has already seen some success when lobbying on behalf of the students.

"I managed to convince (administrators) that this (transaction) fee would be a detriment to students," Jakubik, from New York City, said about the \$50 cost students would have to pay to drop and add classes.

Franklin said he believes FAMU students should weather the tough times with a unified voice. A voice they'll use to help each other, he said.

"In times like these, we have to make sacrifices for one another," the Tallahassee native said.

He said FAMU's student government association is pushing to find innovative ways to raise scholarship dollars. FAMU's SGA will ask each student to donate \$2-\$5 and then ask alumni to match those dollars. Franklin said he understands FSU and FAMU have to operate under similar mind-sets.



Glenn Beil/Democrat Student-body presidents, from left, FAMU's Gallop Franklin, **TCC's** Darren Mason and FSU's Robert Jakubik, met at the Capitol for a portrait session Friday. (Glenn Beil/Democrat)

"In general, we have to pretty much do more with less," he said.

FSU's SGA budget is \$10.9 million; FAMU's SGA budget is \$3.2 million; and **TCC's** SGA budget is nearly \$48,000.

Mason, a Jacksonville native, said he hopes "to make a lasting impact on the **TCC** community by demonstrating great leadership."

It's his hope to get more students involved in the community college and to help them fulfill their goals at **TCC**.

"I feel like I have a connection to every student," said Mason, who hopes to study international affairs.

Jakubik and Franklin also hope to encourage student involvement. Each said that's one of the main goals of student government.

Jakubik said he has been involved with publishing a traditions book for new FSU students. Another book of activities around town is in the making.

"I don't think this is a glory position," Jakubik, who spent about \$8,000 on his campaign, said. "I think it's about making a difference for students."

Franklin spent about \$10,000 on his campaign. He said FAMU students are on the forefront of leaving a rich legacy for the university.

"We have to stand up to the challenges of our generation," he said.

## Veterans can get help with books, housing with more generous GI Bill

By Angeline J. Taylor

DEMOCRAT STAFF WRITER

**Tallahassee Community College** student Nick Breeze is a U.S. Army veteran with some tough choices to make about how to pay for his education. But he isn't alone. More than 1,000 student veterans in Tallahassee will have to decide if they want to pay for college on the old or new GI Bill.

Breeze, 25, has paid for his education on the old GI Bill — originally established in 1944 for returning World War II veterans hoping to go to college.

He and other student veterans can now opt to pay for college with the far more generous Post-9/11 GI Bill — an updated version of the old bill that financially covers tuition, fees, housing and books — which goes into effect this month. With the old GI Bill, students received a check for a set amount designed to cover tuition.

While the choice between the two bills seems easy, it's not. It's unlikely any veterans opting for the new GI Bill will receive any money before the start of the fall semester, unless they applied well before August.

"If it sounds too good to be true, it probably is," Breeze said jokingly in offering advice to fellow soldiers.

Before drawing on dollars under the new bill, student veterans must cope with a Veterans Affairs office in Atlanta that is nearly at a standstill with requests, creating a situation where students aren't sure when they will receive their first check.

Under the Post-9/11 GI Bill, students enrolled in summer classes face having tuition prorated. This means classes since May will be covered under the old plan. Classes from Aug. 1 on would be paid for under the new plan. Plus, student soldiers already certified under the old plan must be recertified under the new plan.

"This GI Bill is unlike anything any of us have seen before," said Cheryl Goodson, coordinator of veterans' affairs at Florida State University.

Veterans' affairs coordinators at **TCC**, FSU and Florida A&M University have been inundated with questions from students including the ever-popular: If I switch from the old to the Post-9/11 GI Bill, am I able to switch back? The answer is no.

Breeze has relied on counseling to make his decisions.

"For now, I'll stick with the old and do more research on the new," Breeze, who plans to major in Middle Eastern Studies at FSU, said.

Coordinators at FSU, FAMU and **TCC** ask students to research heavily before making decisions.

Normally, FSU will have between 400-500 students who attend the university due to the GI Bill, Goodson said. This

year, she believes there will be more. Coordinators at **TCC** and FAMU also expect an enrollment increase.

"Everybody's going to have the same problems," Delorise Page-Robinson, **TCC's** coordinator of veterans' affairs, said. "This creates a lot of work for the schools."

In addition to more work for schools, it also creates more anxiety for students who would normally receive their first check about a month after being certified. Now it could take up to two months, because the VA regional office in Atlanta is at its peak season, Page-Robinson said.

FAMU program assistant Cornelius McGlockton advises students to "read up" on the new bill.

"If they can do their application online, that would be the fastest process," he said.

FAMU graduate student Abraham Scott, 46, will continue on the old GI Bill to complete his master's degree in social work.

"I only have six more classes in social work," he said.

FSU graduate Adam Leggett, 26, faces a similar decision. He just received his bachelor's degree Saturday. But he hopes to exhaust his eligibility under the old GI Bill to start paying for graduate school. Then he will switch over to the post 9/11 GI Bill to complete his studies toward a master's degree in business administration.

"The original GI Bill paved the way to a better life for millions of veterans and their families while building the foundation of the American middle class," U.S. President Barack Obama said by news release. "Today, the Post-9/11 GI Bill is affording a new generation of heroes a 21st century version of that same opportunity."

### Additional Facts

Student veterans have a choice in how to pay for educational needs

Old GI Bill covers tuition.

Post-9/11 GI Bill covers, in addition to tuition and fees, books up to \$1,000 and a housing allowance of as much as \$1,168 a month.



*Glenn Beil/Democrat Military veterans, from left, Nick Breeze, Tiffany Bennett, Adam Leggett and Abraham Scott are weighing the merits of the new GI Bill.*

## Grant Awarded for Health care Resurgence WORKFORCE plus receives \$148,500

Tallahassee, Fla. - WORKFORCE plus, the workforce development board serving Gadsden, Leon and Wakulla counties, has recently been awarded \$148,500 through Workforce Florida Inc. This grant is an effort to enhance educational opportunities in the high growth industry of health care to increase the available labor pool of employees. Partners include **Tallahassee Community College**, Lively Technical Center, Gadsden Technical Institute and the EDC Health care Roundtable.

"The No. 1 priority of Florida's workforce system is to get Floridians back to work and help employed Floridians grow within their professions," said Workforce Florida President/CEO Chris Hart IV. "This initiative seeks to do both while supporting an industry - health care - that is a key economic driver for our state and is essential to our quality of life."

Many of the occupations projected to grow the fastest in today's economy are concentrated in the health care industry. In Gadsden, Leon and Wakulla counties, the predicted annual growth is 2.4% through 2016. Through this health care resurgence grant, WORKFORCE plus will be partnering with local health organizations and educational institutions to develop and implement e-learning courses for new students. WORKFORCE plus will also look to underwrite the costs of current health care professionals to participate and earn Continuing Education Units. Additionally, the grant will target Quick Start training in the areas of Nursing, Medical Assistant or Home Health Aides to provide immediate employment to high school/GED graduates, dislocated workers and the current unemployed workers.

"I continue to be impressed by the services being put forth by WORKFORCE plus in meeting the education and training needs of our community," said Martin Shipman, CEO of Tallahassee Orthopedic Clinic and Chair of the EDC Health care Roundtable. "This grant is just another example of the partnership being forged between the educational institutions, workforce and the health care community."

WORKFORCE plus expects to be able to serve approximately 525 people through this grant. Utilizing a partnership with BigBendHealth.com, WORKFORCE plus will be able to relay information regarding the opportunities available as well as link employers and job seekers directly through the customized recruitment website. BigBendHealth.com is a first-of-its-kind health care network that combines training, continuing education, jobs and resources into one online system.

"Creating job opportunities in an economic downturn is a major challenge," states Kimberly A. Moore, CEO of WORKFORCE plus. "However, under the Health care Resurgence grant we will be afforded a unique opportunity to address the shortages seen in skilled health care workers while creating much needed job opportunities."

Funding for the Health care Resurgence grant is provided through the American Recovery & Reinvestment Act signed by President Obama in February 2009. The Act has a number of strategic elements that are designed to help stimulate the economy and create or sustain jobs.

## Tallahassee Democrat - August 12, 2009



During my senior year the requirements to get in to Florida State became more difficult. I enrolled at TCC and got my associate's degree and then transferred to FSU. Going to TCC first was the perfect choice for me. Many of my professors made learning so interesting that I never missed a class!

Brittane Johns, TCC Class of 2007



**WE ARE**  
the college experience

High quality education | Affordable tuition

**#1 transfer school to Florida State**



## TCC receives Grant to Enhance Ecotourism in Wakulla Co.

Email Address: [news@wctv.tv](mailto:news@wctv.tv)

PRESS RELEASE:

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. (August 12, 2009) - **Tallahassee Community College** announced today it will receive a \$5,000 Image Development grant from VISIT FLORIDA to strengthen the Wakulla County ecotourism industry. The award to the **TCC** Wakulla Ecotourism Institute will fund the creation of a DVD showcasing ecotourism opportunities in Wakulla County, and spur community pride and hospitality through the Wakulla Ambassador program, which will distribute the DVD to residents and tourists.

"The purpose of these grants is to help non-profit entities and local governments stretch their tourism marketing dollars in an effort to expand the cultural, heritage, rural and nature tourism activities in Florida," said Chris Thompson, President and CEO for VISIT FLORIDA. VISIT FLORIDA, a private/public partnership, is the Florida Commission on Tourism's day-to-day operating corporation.

"VISIT FLORIDA's generous support will enable the college to enhance ecotourism in and strengthen local partnerships in Wakulla County," said Dr. Mary Wolfgang, Director of the **TCC** Wakulla Center.

Ecotourism is a vehicle used to grow new businesses and employment opportunities while benefiting local residents and visitors in environmentally sensitive Wakulla County.

The Wakulla Ecotourism Institute offers Green Guide Certification, a program that certifies students as qualified nature guides and environmentalists. Further information may be obtained by contacting Dr. Mary Wolfgang at [wolfgangm@TCC.fl.edu](mailto:wolfgangm@TCC.fl.edu) or (850) 922-6290.

## Tallahassee Democrat - August 13, 2009

### Grant will boost ecotourism

#### DEMOCRAT STAFF REPORT

TALLAHASSEE

\$5,000 grant will boost ecotourism

**Tallahassee Community College** announced Wednesday it will receive a \$5,000 Image Development grant from Visit Florida to strengthen the Wakulla County ecotourism industry. The award to the **TCC** Wakulla Ecotourism Institute will fund the creation of a DVD showcasing ecotourism in Wakulla County, and promote hospitality through the Wakulla Ambassador program, which will distribute the DVD to residents and tourists. The grants "help nonprofit entities and local governments stretch their tourism marketing dollars in an effort to expand the cultural, heritage, rural and nature tourism activities in Florida," said Chris Thompson, president of Visit Florida, the state's official tourism marketing organization.

#### Markets

Stocks jump on Fed news: A more upbeat Federal Reserve is reassuring investors that they've been making the right

bets. Stocks bounded higher Wednesday after the central bank said the economy appears to be "leveling out" rather than simply shrinking at a slower rate.

Oil rises as U.S. imports jump: Oil prices rose Wednesday as the market reacted favorably to signs of an increase in future demand in China and a further loosening of the recession's grip in the United States. That trumped data showing a continued slump in the nation's appetite for oil.

#### Earns

Macy's profit falls in 2Q: Macy's Inc. boosted its profit outlook after reporting that its second-quarter earnings beat expectations because it benefited from efforts to streamline its structure. The department store's shares rose 78 cents, more than 5 percent, to \$16.25 in midday trading.

Democrat staff and news services