

TALLAHASSEE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

In the News



May 14, 2009 - June 18, 2009

TALLAHASSEE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

In the News



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TCC holding a Financial Aid Day

Tallahassee, FL (WTXL)--Some students will have an opportunity to get all the financial advice they need for next year with some one on one counseling May 16th.

TCC is holding a Financial Aid Day Saturday to give those who may not be able to come in during the week because of work or other duties. This is for any new students enrolling at TCC and their parents.

Counselors will help fill out FAFSA applications and answer any questions families may have. The financial aid office says this event is supposed to relieve money stress so students can focus learning.

This event will happen Saturday from 10 to noon on the second floor of the Student Union Building. Counselors are asking for students to bring copies of the 2009 tax forms and w-2 forms to the financial aid office.

For more information please contact the Financial Aid office at (850) 201-8399 or visit them online at <http://www.tcc.fl.edu/fa>



Lion Pride - May 2009

MAKE TCC YOUR FIRST CHOICE FOR COLLEGE.

Attend Eagle Preview to learn more about TCC admissions, financial aid, career planning, degree programs and more!

May 19

5:30-6:30 p.m.

in the TCC Student Union Ballroom

www.GoToTCC.com

(850) 201-8555

admissions@tcc.fl.edu



TCC Financial Aid Day

EMAIL ADDRESS: NEWS@WCTV.TV

Saturday is Financial Aid Day at [Tallahassee Community College](#).

This event is scheduled from 10am to noon in the Financial Aid office in the student union, room 278.

Financial Aid Day is designed to give students who can't leave work during the week a chance to get help with their financial aid paperwork.

The focus will be on new students enrolling at [TCC](#), and helping students and parents fill out the FAFSA, or Free Application for Federal Student Aid.



Applicants should bring copies of their 2008 tax forms and W-2 forms. And staff members will give each student individual attention.

For more info, call the Financial Aid Office at 850-201-8399.

Tallahassee Democrat - May 18, 2009

TCC to hold monthly trustee meeting today

DEMOCRAT STAFF REPORT

[Tallahassee Community College](#)'s trustee board will hold their monthly meeting today at 4 p.m. on 444 Appleyard Drive.

The meeting will be held in the Herbert F. Morgan Room in the Hinson Administration Building.

Return to [Tallahassee.com](#) for more details.

TCC to hold student preview to encourage enrollment

DEMOCRAT STAFF REPORT

Prospective students interested in [Tallahassee Community College](#) are encouraged to attend the second spring edition of Preview [TCC](#) today.

The event will take place from 5:30-6:30 p.m. in [TCC's](#) Student Union Ballroom.

Preview [TCC](#) attracts a large number of high school students, but administrators say the evening is also beneficial for nontraditional students – adults who are either attending college for the first time or returning to school, as well as those looking for a career change.

Students attend preview at TCC

By **Angeline J. Taylor**
DEMOCRAT STAFF WRITER

Taylor County High School students Blake Grambling and Kyle Wilson of Perry came to Tallahassee on Tuesday with their future in mind.

The high-school seniors attended [Tallahassee Community College's](#) preview — an event encouraging students to learn about admission, orientation and financial aid, as well as programs of study, student services and campus life.

Grambling said, "We came up to find out more information."

He and a small group of about 15 students stopped by the event, held at [TCC's](#) student ballroom.

"High-school juniors wanted to know when they should apply," said Anne Koch, a [TCC](#) employee.

However, the age range wasn't limited to high-schoolers. Non-traditional students came to find out what opportunities are available. Koch said a 40-year-old Florida State University student stopped by to find out whether she could take accounting at [TCC](#). Also on hand during the event were representatives from Flagler College and Kaplan Test Prep and Admissions.

Why I'm Sticking With FFELP

By Bill Spiers

President Obama's proposal to end the Federal Family Education Loan Program and make all federal student loans through the Direct Loan Program has gotten a lot of media attention. But for all the talk about budget numbers and politics, the views of college financial aid administrators have been largely lost in the shuffle. All FAOs have their own, differing reasons for choosing a particular federal student loan program for their institutions, but I'd like to explain why I favor the FFEL program and why my college will stick with it.

It comes down to this: FFELP provides outstanding service to students and our college and helps our students avoid defaulting on their loans, and competition -- between FFEL lenders and between FFEL and direct lending -- has provided for choice and, ultimately, excellence.

In the '90s, when direct lending was authorized, many of my friends moved to direct lending, for reasons I understood. Their decisions were based on solid logic and were in the best interest of their institutions. I supported their decision, and continue to support an institution's right to select the program that is in the best interest of the students they serve. Processing issues were abundant in the FFEL program at that time; today, however, the processing concerns are gone. Banks are responsive to students and schools. If needed, I can intervene and get things done for my students. The automation we pushed for in earlier years is now in place, and the infrastructure used in the program is solid.

Students are the primary beneficiaries of the simplicity and strong service of the FFEL program. Providing them with options to submit paper applications or to e-sign their promissory note without having to visit the financial aid office makes their life easier. In addition, the automation and verification of eligibility for FFEL funds expedites the delivery of funds to students. Students are confident the funds they receive are accurate and that their promissory notes are securely maintained.

As a community college, we have the responsibility to ensure that our students understand the potential impact borrowing will have after graduation. With the help of our guarantor partners we have implemented financial literacy seminars for all student borrowers. Each new borrower must attend a seminar before their loan funds are released. The materials for this program are provided by guarantors, who are there in person to help make the presentations to our students. The support we receive helps us educate our students about loans and ultimately makes them better consumers of financial products of all kinds. Current budget cuts and reduced manpower would make it impossible to continue a program like this without the support of our partners. In addition to financial literacy, we also receive information on exit interviews and repayment options that are vital to keeping students in repayment and out of default.

For many years lenders, guarantors and servicers have been active participants in financial aid awareness activities. These organizations devoted considerable financial resources and man hours to help financial aid professionals educate families about federal financial aid programs. From creating publications to high school financial aid nights and community-wide events, students throughout my state and nationwide have benefited from this support. When they apply for financial aid early because of this advice, needy students often receive more grant assistance and reduce or even eliminate their need for loans. In addition to financial aid awareness activities, lenders, servicers and guarantors also offer substantial training opportunities to financial aid staff. The loss of training opportunities could be detrimental to my staff and ultimately to the students we serve.

Default prevention and aversion are critical issues in the community college sector. At the institution I serve, our selection of lenders, guarantors and servicers is based on their company default rates and their default rate at our school. The basic due diligence requirements of the Federal Government in default prevention and aversion simply are not good enough to prevent defaults with the community college sector. Our lending partners must
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FFELP...

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offer exceptional customer service and go well beyond the basic federal requirements for our students. We conduct a thorough review to ensure that our students are well served. We are confident that the people serving our borrowers understand the issues that young, inexperienced student borrowers face. Competition between lenders, guarantors and servicers has pushed them well beyond the basic measures to reach and assist these young borrowers

With the loss of competition that would come from the Obama proposal, we must ask ourselves if this level of commitment to default prevention and aversion will continue. If we are forced to move to direct lending and find ourselves dissatisfied with the default prevention and aversion efforts, what are our choices? Who will help us reach our borrowers? Will our schools have to pay for an outside company to do what our guarantors, lenders and servicers have done free all these many years?

For our students, customer service is vital. They must receive correct information that they can understand the first time they call. Students need help -- someone to hold their hands because they are in a learning curve. They don't want to wait on the phone for 30 minutes for help and they won't. By selecting lenders committed to creating long term relationships with student borrowers, we have found that they go the extra mile, and sometimes two, to ensure students are treated well and receive the information they need. The clarity of the information provided from the first day the loan is issued until the student finishes repaying their loans can make a difference for a population that is naïve in their approach to borrowing, credit and responsibility. Notice I didn't say ignorant because that isn't true. They do, however, need guidance as they move through this pilgrimage of learning about financial responsibility.

One of the great benefits of FFELP is the ability of the student, and where it is appropriate, their parent to decide with whom they want to do business. Students in direct lending are not given this choice, a clear distinction between the two programs. While we provide a list of lenders that have acknowledged they work with community colleges, a student is free to select any lender willing to issue their loan. The student -- not the school or the government -- controls the choice of lender and has the opportunity to evaluate benefits offered by that

lender. If a student has a solid relationship with a bank, he or she will often pick that bank as the lender for the student loan.

Competition has fostered excellence in FFELP and DL. The innovations were a direct result of the push to stay viable and technologically advanced so that schools would select or continue to use that program. Until recently when lenders also competed for borrowers which led to lower loan costs for our students. The default prevention and aversion efforts we enjoy in the FFELP program represent efforts on the part of business partners to meet our demands and compete for marketability. Technology improvements in borrower interface are the result of competition between FFELP and DL. Our students have certainly benefited from that competition.

While the media has focused on the profitability in the FFELP program, little has been said about the fact that the federal government must fund Federal Pell Grant Program increases off the backs of student borrowers. The government borrows money at very low rates, much lower than those available to lenders, yet the government would continue to charge the same interest rates as FFEL lenders. Under the current proposal the federal government isn't providing any breaks to the students and is actually making more off the program than lenders ever could. Wouldn't it be appropriate for the USDOE to set interest rates based on the student's expected family contribution? Or offer borrower benefits that help students during repayment based on their income? Or perhaps set an interest rate that is more in tune with financial markets and allow lenders to compete?

I support FFELP because of the benefits it provides students, parents and institutions. My institution and our students have been well served by this program. Times are changing. I can only hope that the Congress will find a way to maintain a worthy program that has benefited students for decades. And maybe, just maybe, financial aid administrators at over 4100 institutions that currently use FFEL will have an opportunity to be heard.

We are on the front lines every day. And we care about our students.

Bill Spiers is director of financial aid at [Tallahassee Community College](#).

TCC staff member honored by Leon County Sickle Cell Foundation

TCC NEWS RELEASE:

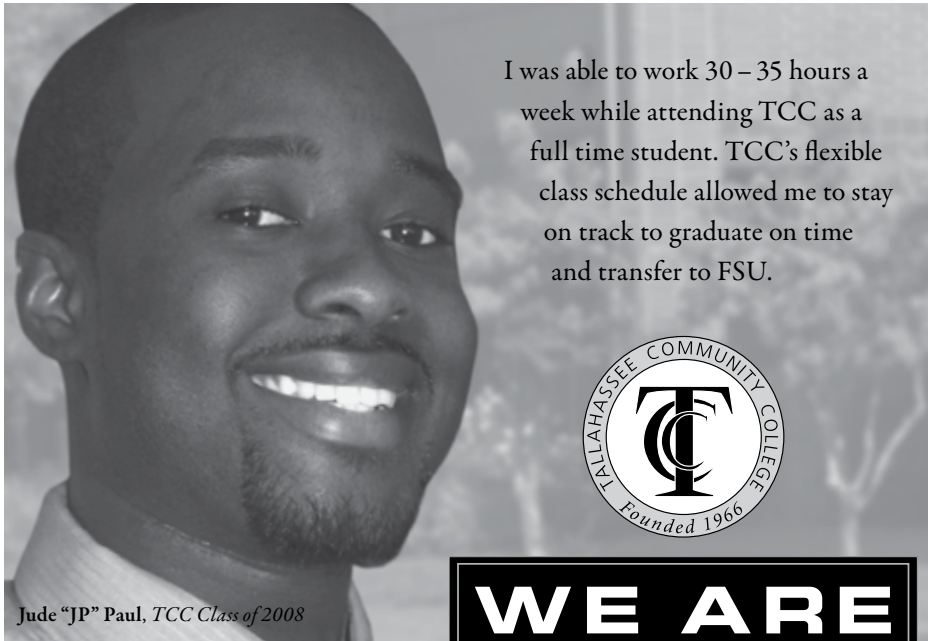
TALLAHASSEE, Fla. (May 21, 2009) - Andrea Blalock, Corrections Coordinator at TCC's Florida Public Safety Institute, was honored Saturday at the Crescent Moon Gala, benefiting the Leon County Sickle Cell Foundation. Ms. Blalock received the Community Trailblazer Salute, for her efforts with three recruit classes in raising over \$4,000. Ms. Blalock accepted the award in memory of Basic Recruit Robert Dexter West, who passed away May 2, 2009.

"Recruit West was a wonderful young man and a brave recruit. His death is a loss to the Gadsden and Tallahassee communities," said Ms. Blalock. "It was a privilege to raise money for the Foundation and to accept the Community Trailblazer award in his honor."

The Sickle Cell Foundation of Leon County strives to inform and educate the community about Sickle Cell Disease. The Foundation also supports legislation beneficial to Sickle Cell programs and provides a vehicle for communication between health care and social service professionals.

For more information on the Leon County Sickle Cell Foundation, call (850) 222-2355 or visit www.sicklecellfoundation.org/index

Tallahassee Democrat - May 31 & June 7, 2009
Havana Herald - May 21, 2009



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.



Jude "JP" Paul, TCC Class of 2008

WE ARE
the college experience

High quality education | Affordable tuition | Flexible schedules

**Flexible Schedules
and Online Classes**

TCC reports give Law high marks, reveal money woes

By Doug Blackburn
DEMOCRAT SENIOR WRITER

Tallahassee Community College President **Bill Law** completed his seventh year at the school with a glowing evaluation from the board of trustees, despite an audit that found the college needed to improve its financial reporting process.

In the auditor general's report for the fiscal year that ended June 30, 2008, **TCC** was found to have a "material weakness," or significant deficiency. The college resubmitted its report and received a clean audit.

Law, 60, acknowledged he was embarrassed by the initial audit.

"We managed the money perfectly, but we reported it incorrectly," he said. **"Items were reported in the wrong category or column. We had an interim controller who is no longer with us."**

"I'm just as shocked today as I was when they told me what happened," he added. **"We'd like to think it was singular in nature."**

Karen Moore, vice chairwoman of the board, was in charge of **Law's** annual review, completed earlier this week. She cited the renovation of the Learning Commons and ground breaking for the Ghazvini Center for Health Care Education as major developments at **TCC** during the past year.

"Dr. Law's evaluation was overwhelmingly positive,"

Moore said. "He received the highest marks from each of the trustees in all of the areas that were covered."

Law's salary will remain at \$284,000 for the coming school year. He praised the board for working together during financially difficult times.

James Stultz, audit manager for colleges and universities for the Auditor General's office, described the report for the last fiscal year as an anomaly.

"As noted in our recommendation, by establishing effective review procedures over the financial statements this finding could be corrected," Stultz said in an e-mail reply to questions.

Moore viewed **Law's** response to the audit as further proof that the college has a strong leader.

"When there was an issue that needed to be reviewed, he acted immediately," Moore said. "He had solutions."

TCC President Receives Performance Review

TCC NEWS RELEASE:

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. (May 22, 2009) - The Board of Trustees of **Tallahassee Community College** has concluded its annual performance review of college president, **Dr. Bill Law. Law**, who has served at **TCC** since May 2002, was evaluated on 34 separate items covering areas related to resource management, organizational strategy, community college advocacy, communication, collaboration and professionalism. The review was reported at the May 18, 2009, meeting of the Board.

"**Dr. Law's** review confirms the overwhelming sentiment of the Board that he is doing an excellent job for the College and the community," reported Trustee Karen Moore, who chaired the review process. "Without exception, the president received high marks from all trustees in the areas surveyed," Moore noted.

Of particular merit, the Board noted the strong financial leadership provided by **Dr. Law** during the ongoing budget crisis in the state. The Board noted **Law's** leadership in moving forward with the financing and construction of the Ghazvini Center for Health Care Education, as well as the recent opening of The Learning Commons, an academic support facility for students.

TCC has experienced both record enrollments and record levels for degrees and certificates awarded in the past year.

Specific comments provided by Board members in the review process praised **Law** for his collaboration with the Board of Trustees.

"There is continuing and continuous communication between **Dr. Law** and the Board. His knowledge on important matters is shared," wrote one trustee.

Board Chair Frank Messersmith observed **Law's** role in both local economic development and in statewide public policy development.

"**Bill Law** represents the College extremely well and is viewed as a national and statewide leader in community college education. We are well-served by his leadership," said Messersmith.

College Notebook: Arundel duo sparkles on Tallahassee diamond

By **BILL WAGNER**,
STAFF WRITER

Arundel High baseball products Tyler Hibbs and Shawn Pleffner both enjoyed outstanding seasons with the [Tallahassee Community College](#) baseball program. Pleffner, a sophomore outfielder, was named Player of the Year in the Panhandle Conference. Hibbs, a freshman pitcher and shortstop, was selected Fireman of the Year.

Pleffner captured the Panhandle Conference batting title with a stellar .435 average and also led the league with 12 home runs and 65 RBIs. He is only the third Tallahassee player to be named PC Player of the Year.

"Shawn had a tremendous year. He is a natural hitter with very good instincts at the plate," longtime Tallahassee head coach Mike McLeod said. "Shawn is very good at figuring out pitchers and making adjustments. He is a real tough out.

Pleffner, the Capital-Gazette Communications' Player of the Year in 2007, did not achieve the grades necessary to accept a scholarship to nearby Florida State. The Annapolis resident is hoping to be selected in the upcoming Major League Baseball Draft.

"Unfortunately, Shawn let down in the classroom and now it's all or nothing with pro baseball," McLeod said. "I certainly think Shawn can play pro ball. I know for darn sure he can hit at that level."

Meanwhile, Hibbs enjoyed a fabulous freshman season at both the plate and on the mound. The Odenton resident was named Fireman of the Year after compiling a 3-3 record with a 1.63 earned run average and conference-leading 10 saves.

"Tyler was a terrific closer, and that's hard to do coming out of the shortstop slot," McLeod said. "His stuff was just electric all season. He has a great breaking ball and does an outstanding job of changing speeds on his fastball."

Hibbs also batted .363 with a league-leading 73 hits, seven homers and 46 RBIs while playing superb defense at shortstop. The Tallahassee roster lists Hibbs as coming out of Meade High, since that is where he graduated after being expelled from Arundel following a much-publicized arrest.

"I'm happy this kid has his head on straight now because he's got one heck of a future," McLeod said. "Tyler is just a tremendous all-around baseball player. He can hit, he can pitch and he can play defense."

Hibbs, whose scholarship to Florida State was rescinded, is currently trying to get re-admitted to the Atlantic Coast Conference school, McLeod said.

Junior right-hander Patrick Smith enjoyed a terrific season on the mound for the Shepherd baseball team. The North County High graduate compiled a 7-3 record with a 3.96 ERA in 13 starts. The 6-foot-3, 205-pounder notched 49 strikeouts and allowed only 12 walks in 632/3 innings of work.

"Obviously, Pat did a great job for us this year with his 7-3 record. The biggest

reason for his improvement has been his maturity," said head coach Wayne Riser, who has led Shepherd to four NCAA Division II Tournament appearances. "Without his efforts to improve, we would not have enjoyed the success that we did this season!"

Community College of Baltimore County at Dundalk catcher Glen Jenkins Jr. received numerous honors following an outstanding sophomore season in which he batted .295 with four home runs and 26 RBIs. The Glen Burnie graduate established himself as one of the top defensive catchers in the National Junior College Athletic Association, earning the Gold Glove Award for both the state of Maryland and Region XX.

Jenkins ranked first nationally in fielding percentage and was named Division II All-Northeastern District Defensive Player of the Year. He was selected as Most Valuable Player at CCBC-Dundalk and is being recruited by several Division II and III schools.

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College Notebook...

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Following is a list of Anne Arundel County products playing collegiate baseball. This is not a complete list and any additions or changes will be made as they come available:

BELLHAVEN COLLEGE: Brian McCormick (Sr., C, Arundel).

CATHOLIC: Tommy Bowles (So., OF, Mount St. Joseph/Davidsonville); Joe Mayer (Sr., OF, St. Mary's).

CCB-CATONSVILLE: Chris Ball (Fr., OF-C, Arundel); Zach Lucas (So., RHP, Broadneck).

CCB-DUNDALK: Cianan McCloskey (So., OF-LHP, Glen Burnie); Lee Anarino (Fr., OF, North County); Glen Jenkins (So., C, Glen Burnie); Chris Moore (So., OF-RHP, Chesapeake); Chris Henry (So., C, Chesapeake); Jesse Wiggington (So., RHP, Chesapeake); John Hodges (Fr., RHP-INF, Northeast); Earl Geoghegan (Fr., P-INF, Northeast); Dylan Porter (Fr., P-1B, Chesapeake).

CCB-ESSEX: Mike Ray (Fr., P, Broadneck).

DELAWARE: Herman Scholtz (Fr., RHP, DeMatha/Gambrills).

DICKINSON: Tom Van Horn (So., INF, Annapolis).

FROSTBURG: Kyle Timme (Sr., LHP, Mount St. Joseph/Pasadena); Kevin Williford (So., P, Old Mill); Adam Summerfelt (Fr., INF, Spalding/Gambrills); Scott Arndt (Fr., RHP, Spalding/Pasadena).

GEORGE MASON: Daniel Palumbo (So., INF, Spalding/Bowie).

GEORGE WASHINGTON: Chris Holland (Jr., INF-OF, Chesapeake).

HARTFORD: Brendan Floyd (Jr., P, Mount St. Joseph/Severna Park).

JOHNS HOPKINS: Harrison Taylor (Sr., RHP, Severna Park); Chris Huisman (Jr., 1B, Spalding/Davidsonville).

LYNCHBURG: Joshua Morris (Fr., OF, Arundel).

MARYLAND: Brett Jones (Sr., RHP-INF, Southern); Eric Potter (So., LHP, Arundel); Sander Beck (Fr., RHP, Severn).

MARIETTA: Jason Baumler (Sr., RHP, Old Mill).

Head coach is former Old Mill High standout and Glen Burnie native Brian Brewer.

MARY WASHINGTON: Nick Espinosa (Jr., C, Broadneck); Eric Behringer (Fr., RHP, Broadneck).

MCDANIEL: Matt Pace (So., INF, North County).

MESSIAH: Sean Hart (So., OF, Annapolis).

MOUNT ST. MARY'S: Brady Feigl (Fr., LHP, Old Mill); Brooks Rothschild (Fr., RHP, Calvert Hall/Pasadena).

NORTH CAROLINA-GREENSBORO: Corey Overholtzer (So., OF, Arundel).

RADFORD: Matt Hillsinger (Fr., OF, Spalding/Bowie); Jeff Kemp (Fr., INF, Spalding/Bowie); Matt Mack (Fr., INF, St. John's-D.C./Davidsonville); Jason Patten (Fr., RHP, Spalding/Davidsonville); Paul DeVito (Fr., LHP, Spalding/Annapolis).

SALISBURY: Pat O'Keefe (Fr., RHP, Severna Park); Matt Skrenchuk (Fr., C, Arundel).

ST. MARY'S: Donald Redmiles (Jr., C, DeMatha/Davidsonville); Peter Bruce (Jr., INF, St. Mary's/Annapolis); Johnathan Stewart (Fr., RHP, St. Mary's/Edgewater).

ST. JOSEPH'S: Joseph Cook (So., SS, DeMatha/Riva).

SHEPHERD: Charlie Gordon (Sr., RHP, Chesapeake/AACC); Kyle Shifflette (Jr., LHP, Severna Park); Patrick Smith (Jr., RHP, North County); Jesse Leszcynski (Fr., RHP, Arundel).

TALLAHASSEE CC: Shawn Pleffner (So., OF, Arundel); Tyler Hibbs (Fr., P-SS, Arundel).

TOWSON: Gary Helmick (Sr., INF, Northeast); Duane Herr (Sr., OF-RHP, Glen Burnie/AACC); Sean Bertrand (Fr., RHP, North County).

YORK: Ryan Woods (Fr., 1B, Spalding/Glen Burnie).

College Notebook is a regular feature of Capital-Gazette Newspapers designed to highlight the accomplishments of Anne Arundel County products involved with intercollegiate athletics. Items for this column can be faxed (410-280-5953) or e-mailed (bwagner@capitalgazette.com).

Budget lean for area projects

By Paul Flemming
FLORIDA CAPITAL BUREAU

A stripped-down state budget means meager rations for the state and the Big Bend.

Without more than \$5 billion in federal-stimulus dollars, a billion from increased tobacco taxes and \$800 million from a jump in court fees and driver charges, Florida's \$66.5 billion spending plan would have been even more constrained.

As it is, there's \$497.9 million for Leon County, \$8.9 million for Gadsden and \$5.5 million for Wakulla in specific line items for road building, higher education and transportation.

Layoffs and pay cuts for state workers, as well as higher education program funding, dominated budget discussion in Tallahassee, but capital projects are pinched as well.

Lawmakers were prohibited from seeking member projects, those sweeteners for the folks back home, so there's little in the budget on Gov. Charlie Crist's desk to tout. Instead, it's bread-and-butter formula spending and pared-down versions of projects already in the pipeline.

"This year (constituents and institutions) kind of understood that, unfortunately, those dollars weren't going to be there," said Rep. Alan Williams, D-Tallahassee. "We're going to be playing catch-up when the revenue does start back up."

Crist has until May 30 to act on the budget. All of the projects in the budget now are subject to his line-item veto, so none are official without his signature. Even then, they can go away if the state's tax-revenue collections continue the downward slide.

Building projects at Florida State and Florida A&M universities and [Tallahassee Community College](#) bolster Leon County's targeted share. The budget includes \$5.6 million for remodeling the Gore Education Complex at FAMU and \$2.4 million toward work on the Allied Health Education Center at [TCC](#).



Tight budget years mean scrambled planning. Mark Bertolami, director of facilities for FSU, said building projects are cut up into more multi-year parts when funding diminishes. Essential maintenance projects are stretched thin.

"We're all sitting here scratching our heads a little bit," Bertolami said. With money doled out over many years "these projects become phased. Sometimes it can just be a bear."

Among the projects in the budget now is \$4.7 million for maintenance.

Maintenance "has been the university's highest priority. Those projects aren't real sexy, but they're absolutely essential," Bertolami said.

There's also \$2 million for the planning of a new, off-campus maintenance building and \$1 million for the start of design on a library center and \$2 million for remodeling the '60s-era Dittmer Building.

"We have one of the oldest inventories of buildings," Bertolami said. "We walk that fine line of taking care of what you've got versus building something new."

FSU and FAMU each got \$985,665 for the third phase of construction on a \$32-million College of Engineering office, lab and classroom building.

Rep. Michelle Rehwinkel Vasilinda, D-Tallahassee, said that the money coming to Leon County is not exceptional, but it's relatively good. She said compared to Alachua County, home of the University of Florida, Leon got a good share.

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Budget lean...

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FSU, FAMU and **TCC** drew \$23.7 million total in capital-project money to Leon County. The capital projects for UF and Santa Fe Community College in Alachua got \$18.3 million.

"We did comparably well. If that's the benchmark for us, we did well," Rehwinkel Vasilinda said.

The budget includes \$2.2 million for the I-10 widening project, this time from Meridian Road to Capital Circle Northwest. There's \$6.3 million for resurfacing of U.S. 90 in Gadsden County. Two bicycle/pedestrian-path projects in Wakulla County, one near Alligator Point and another in the St. Marks Wildlife Refuge, get \$2.6 million combined.

Declining state revenues and raids on the transportation trust fund have reduced money for roads. The state's five-year work plan has shifted and pushed projects back, with some coming back on line with federal stimulus money.

"We just have to make adjustments," said Harry Reed, executive director of the Capital Region Transportation Planning Agency. "We've had several major projects that have dropped off the radar."

One was the Quincy Bypass. More than \$7 billion in authority to start transportation projects has gone away in the last two and a half years.

"It wasn't this agency that dropped the project. It was (the Department of Transportation) that said there just wasn't any money," Reed said.

Coaches offer recruiting advice

By Jim Lamar

DEMOCRAT SPORTS EDITOR

The college recruiting process has no formal blueprint for success.

Every athlete is different. Every coach is different. Every situation is different.

But, more times than not, college coaches find themselves repeating similar advice as they educate parents and student-athletes about recruiting.

Here is a sampling of the advice a few area college coaches and one college administrator offered to the Kids In Sports readers for navigating the recruiting process.

Know the rules: The NCAA.org Web site provides a brochure titled "The guide for the college-bound student-athlete and parents." Download it for free. Print it out. And learn the rules.

"That brochure will give you a basic understanding of NCAA rules regarding recruiting as well as explain the process from the academic side for what it takes to be an athlete at the Division I or Division II levels," said Brian Battle, an associate athletics director at Florida State who oversees the department's compliance with NCAA rules.

The brochure introduces the eligibility requirements to be cleared for NCAA competition. It also spells out the recruiting calendar for college coaches — namely when a coach can (or can't) contact recruits.

"It's important to have a reasonable understanding of NCAA rules," FSU soccer coach Mark Krikorian said. "You need to know that if you call a coach that the coach may not be able to call you back. It's not that we're being rude. But we're not allowed to call back until a certain time."

Register with the NCAA: Battle said it's a smart move to send paperwork to the NCAA's Eligibility Center (formerly known as the NCAA Clearinghouse) by the start of the junior year in high school.

"That gets their name in the system," Battle said. "It begins the process for doing an evaluation of their transcripts. It creates a file for them. The biggest thing is that keeps you from having to rush around your senior year. ... It allows you to plan out the second half of your junior year

and your senior-year courses to make sure you meet the requirements for NCAA Division I or Division II."

Identify your targets and do your research: Make a list of the schools where you would like to play and learn everything you can about those programs.

This is an area where [Tallahassee Community College](#) baseball coach Mike McLeod starts his conversation with parents.

"If a guy is a decent player, there are all sorts of options out there," McLeod said. "There's high-level Division I, mid-level D-I, low-level D-I, D-II, D-III, NAIA, junior college Division I and Division II — lots of options. Sometimes kids and parents get myopic and focus on one thing. Then that opportunity doesn't present itself and it's damaging to the psyche."

As you identify target schools, be realistic about your ability to play at that level. The old adage in recruiting is that coaches always want to sign kids who are better than what they already have.

"Everybody thinks their kid is the greatest," FSU men's golf coach Trey Jones said. "And that's OK. I think my kids are the greatest, too. But if you want to get my attention, then look at what Drew Kittleson did to get my attention two years ago. Or look at what Wesley Graham did to get my attention last year. Those are guys I signed. Look at them and that will tell you what I'm looking for."

Let them know you are interested: Once you've identified your target schools, don't be afraid to let those coaches know they are on your list.

"I think the parents need to encourage the kid to get the letter of interest out," FSU swimming coach Neil Harper said. "Here's my GPA. Here are my times. I'm interested in your school."

"Start identifying universities and programs they would be interested in going to by maybe their sophomore year and let those coaches know. That way, I can start watching them if I'm going to a meet to watch a senior or a junior compete."

continued...

recruiting advice...

continued

And get the word out the old-fashioned way — not by shelling out bucks for a service to prepare some high-dollar recruiting pitch.

“You’d be surprised with how far a hand-written note goes,” Jones said. “A short, personal note — even if it’s to say, ‘Hey, good luck in the ACC Tournament’ — tells us that a kid is conscientious and that this isn’t some sort of package that he’s going to send to 50 other coaches. That gets my attention in a hurry.”

Don’t assume they will find you: With the way the NCAA has cut into the evaluation opportunities for coaches, it’s important to put yourself in a position to be seen.

“Showcases, summer ball — I hate to say it because I really believe there should be a period of time where kids should take time off to let their arms heal,” McLeod said. “But that travel ‘fall ball’ season gets kids out there in front of us.

“Our schedule at **TCC** is such that we may be playing five days a week during the season. So we can’t go out to watch as many games as we would like in the spring. But you need to be in a position to be seen. And even though I like kids at that age taking time off — and I think that’s

important all the way through your career even if you are a professional — travel ball is a way to get in front of college coaches.”

If travel teams aren’t an option, the summer camp scene can help.

“That gives you a chance to work with the coaching staff and get a feel for how they coach,” Krikorian said. “And the coach gets an up-close and personal look at you. Plus, you can get very direct feedback from the coach.

“The idea of getting kids on a campus for a summer camp can serve the kid and that family very well. It gives you a good look at what that campus is like.”

Don’t give up easily: Krikorian was being interviewed for this story as he and his assistant coach, Eric Bell, were watching a national club tournament on the East Coast. Bell asked Krikorian to add one more piece of advice for high-school athletes.

“There is a school for everyone,” Krikorian, and Bell, said. “Any kid that is serious and wants to play can find a school that meets their academic or athletic interests. You may have to work hard to find it, but that school is out there.”

Your mission, should you choose to accept

Jenne Vermes

SENIOR STAFF WRITER

Mission statements are extremely common in the worlds of business and education. Every University has a mission statement, but it is a scarce number of students, undergraduate or graduate, who have read it or even know it exists. Even most colleges and departments within a university have a mission statement. As trivial as this may seem, a mission statement is one of the most crucial pieces of information a prospective student can have regarding a university.

A mission statement is essentially a vision, and every affiliate of the university must understand, appreciate and share the vision in order for it to succeed. If the mission is stated right, it is indispensable to the university, as it creates a common thread between all parties, staff, students and parents alike.

A mission statement allows administration, even in a casual encounter, to measure the consistency of every faculty member and student on any occasion.

For example, a new curriculum proposed by a professor may be reviewed in relation to the mission of the university before it can be implemented.

In general, every company has a mission statement, including nearly every educational institution in the United States. The very idea of a mission suggests that it is the beliefs and purposes that drive the company in every aspect of its existence.

According to a quotation by president and CEO of Susan G. Komen for the Cure, Hala Modellmog, as read on a Venti decaf Café Americano at Starbucks, "There is a subtle difference between a mission and a promise. A mission is something you strive to accomplish — a promise is something you are compelled to keep."

For a college or university, these concepts are one and the same, as their mission statement acts as a promise to their faculty, students and the community as a whole that the education provided will be instilled with their particular morals, beliefs and philosophies.

A mission statement describes the purpose of an educational institution. It is important for a college or university to explicitly state what it stands for, how it intends to accomplish its goals, and what is expected of its faculty and students in accordance with its mission.

In its statement, Florida State University is described as a "graduate-research university with a liberal arts base," and its students, faculty and affiliates must be aware of and support this ideal in order for the mission to thrive.

A mission statement should not be something that stands alone; it has to feed every aspect of the university. If the mission statement has a strong foundation and an even stronger following, then every independent organization within the university is fed by the mission. The mission statement is the foundation under the many improvement plans and educational programs that a university employs.

"It is important in that it gives us a written foundation from which to expand our policies," said Ted Stanley, College of Music undergraduate program director. "If we are faithful to the statement, we won't stray from our function."

Prospective students of a university, as well as applicants for a job within a company, must research that college or company before they devote their time, money and lives to it.

"I've never read the FSU mission statement," said Maverick Bermingham, second year mechanical engineering major. "I don't think many students even know it exists."

Students, however, should want to know that the mission statement and what it stands for correspond to their own moral, professional and philosophical beliefs. Although most students graduate never having read this important declaration, it is imperative that students read and understand the mission of a university before they even apply. Not only will it give them an idea of what they will experience as a student, but it will also give them an idea of what they will represent as an integral part of the university.

continued...

They should also be concerned about the implementation of the mission, that it is completely supported and carefully managed by the college they attend.

A mission statement is important and completely indispensable, but it must drive every single plan implemented in the university.

It would be interesting to see how consistent many colleges and universities are with their mission statement.

TCC's mission is stated as "to provide excellence in teaching and learning through educational programs that promote intellectual, social and personal development of students;" however, as many of the classes offered are structured with lecture-test format and thrive on multiple choice testing alone, some aspects of the mission may be left wanting. To foster intellectual, social and personal development, one may argue that more emphasis must be placed on free and critical thought than is offered in a course designed as such.

It is important to know and understand from the start who and what is being represented by students, faculty and the community that supports and is supported by a University.

Mission statements are a clear, upfront mechanism for fostering this understanding and setting the goals and their means for the future of the institution. It is everyone's mission, and it is everyone's prerogative to accept it.

If you're one of those students who's never taken a look at the university's mission statement, visit <http://registrar.fsu.edu/Webtest/ugr008.htm> to check it out in its entirety.

TCC feeling the weight of students needing extra help in basic classes

BY ANGELINE J. TAYLOR
DEMOCRAT STAFF WRITER

Tallahassee Community College administrators and faculty expected high enrollment for summer classes. But the area where summer enrollment is high may surprise some.

Barbara Sloan, TCC vice president of academic affairs, said that remedial classes in English, writing and reading showed an enrollment hike of 20-percent before summer classes started.

The classes show the need for more new students to learn the basics. And that need for more remedial classes has been felt across the state.

According to the Florida Department of Education, 55 percent of all students entering the state's post secondary institutions need help in math, reading or writing. About 94 percent of those students were enrolled in community colleges.

Return to Tallahassee.com for more details.

Havana Herald - May 28, 2009



Financial Aid and Scholarships available

Coming from rural Gadsden County, I was very fortunate to receive a scholarship to TCC for being a first generation college student in my family. The faculty and staff at TCC were very caring and gave me a great deal of hands-on support.

Vanessa Jones,
TCC Class of 2008



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TCC Seeing Rise in Students Needing Remedial Courses

Reporter: Stephanie Salvatore

EMAIL ADDRESS: STEPHANIE.SALVATORE@WCTV.TV

Recent F-CAT scores show local students have done very well in English and Math, but it's easy to forget the basics.

TCC has seen a 20 percent increase in its summer enrollment for students seeking help in remedial courses.

Students say it's nice to have a refresher course for certain subjects before jumping into harder ones.

"If we take algebra before, then we can have that fresh in our minds going into business calculus or whatever kind of math you're taking and it gives us a better opportunity of getting a good grade," says Andrew Barron, who took a remedial math course at TCC.

"I'm able to now have better skills and be able to go into college algebra more confident than I would have been had I not had those classes," says Tiffany Williams, who also took a remedial math course.

TCC is also working with area schools to align math, reading, and writing curriculums for high school seniors so they have a better grasp on the subjects before moving on.

TCC gives Havana students opportunity to explore "Body"

TCC NEWS RELEASE:

Havana Elementary fifth graders were recently treated by Tallahassee Community College to view the "Our Body" exhibit at the Mary Brogan Museum of Art and Science. The students toured the Body exhibit and were also allowed to engage in hands-on science activities. This opportunity was provided after a vigorous year of academics and completion of the Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test (FCAT).

"This trip was a reward for working so hard all year, to give these kids an experience they might not have otherwise," said Wilbert Butler, TCC faculty member. "They asked some great questions and showed real enthusiasm for the exhibit. It was wonderful to see them engaged in learning about the human body"

TCC worked in conjunction with City Councilman Vernell Ross, City Councilwoman Shirley McGill, Harrell Realty, Gail Butler-Hinton and Carol Zimmerman to make this trip possible.

Tallahassee Democrat - May 29, 2009

TCC enrollment for remedial classes increases

DEMOCRAT STAFF REPORT

The most popular classes at Tallahassee Community College aren't freshman English or college Algebra.

Instead the most popular classes show a trend that ripples through state universities and community colleges all across the country.

Remedial classes at community colleges have increased in such a way that it shows a large majority of students are coming into the college environment unprepared.

Remedial classes at TCC spike

Many students unprepared for rigors of college coursework

By Angeline J. Taylor
DEMOCRAT STAFF WRITER

Passing high-school requirements may not necessarily mean a student is prepared for college, according to Barbara Sloan, vice president of academic affairs at [Tallahassee Community College](#).

Sloan has seen a 31-percent student enrollment increase in summer remedial classes at the college.

She attributes the spike in remedial reading, math and English to students needing to learn the basics before they are prepared for college-level courses.

"There's still somewhat of a curriculum gap between what's required to receive a high-school diploma and what's required to succeed at the college level," Sloan said.

About 1,225 students are taking part in what are called developmental classes this summer at [TCC](#). About 57 percent of those students graduated from high school in the last three years, according to [TCC](#).

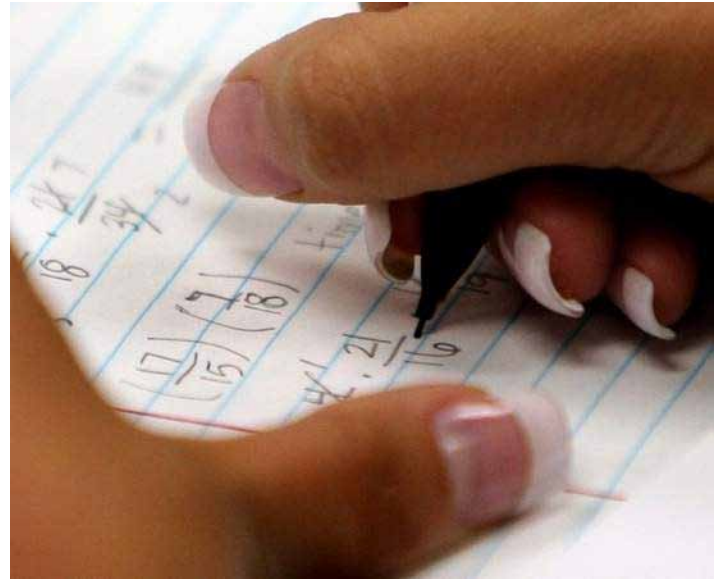
The state's education department reports that 55 percent of students enrolling in Florida's post-secondary schools require help in the three basic courses. Ninety-four percent of those students were enrolled at community colleges

Because of the increase in students needing remedial help, a state law was passed last year to help students be college ready. The law, taking effect for high schools in August, allows students to take the same remedial classes currently scheduled at [TCC](#) while they are enrolled in high school, Sloan said. It will be a new, dual-enrollment system.

"We're trying to find those students who are borderline — who have the skills to pass high school but who are not quite ready for college reading, math and writing," Sloan said.

Algebra teacher Ethel Guinyard believes more students are seeking remedial help at [TCC](#) because of the college's "excellent program."

"We have excellent support services and that word is getting out," she said.



The most popular classes at [TCC](#) aren't freshman English or college Algebra. Instead the most popular classes show a trend that ripples throughout state universities and community colleges all across the country. Remedial classes at community colleges have increased in such a way that it shows a large majority of students are coming into the college environment unprepared. (Glenn Beil/Democrat)

Guinyard, who has worked at [TCC](#) for 16 years, said the newly opened learning commons helps integrate all of a student's support needs under one roof.

Reading teacher Laura Girtman has worked at [TCC](#) 14 years. She said new high-school graduates have to acclimate to college life.

"They get here and they realize life is a little different," she said. "They've been told what to do for 12 years in school. Now, they have a totally different schedule."

Sloan, Guinyard and Girtman said not all of [TCC's](#) students enrolled in the basic classes are new high-school graduates. There are some international students who need to be immersed in English classes. There are also some students who have been out of high school for years.

"For the returning student who's been out of school for 5, 10 or 15 years — this is like a jolt to their knowledge," Girtman said.

continued...

Keyonna Shaw is such a student.

"I've been out of high school so long I needed help," Shaw, 23, said about her reasons for enrolling in basic classes. "I've had a child. I wanted a better life for me and my family and just sitting around wasn't going to get it."

She aspires to have a career as a radiology technician.

Student Casey Hicks said the last time she took math was in the 10th grade.

"I took a year off from school," Hicks, an aspiring nurse from Wakulla County, said. "I needed a refresher."



Photos by GLENN BEIL/Democrat Students stay after class for a study session in a Ethel Guinyard's math prep class on Thursday. The most populated classes at TCC aren't freshman English or college algebra. Instead, classes show a trend that ripples throughout state universities and community colleges all across the country. Remedial classes at community colleges have increased in such a way that it shows a large majority of students are coming into the college environment unprepared. (Glenn Beil/Democrat)



Open university doors with a degree from Tallahassee Community College

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For more information about TCC, visit GoToTCC.com or call (850) 201-TCC1.

Capital City Black Pages 2009 - 2010 edition

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Mentor families needed for Egyptian students coming to TCC

TCC NEWS RELEASE:

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. (June 2, 2009) - **Tallahassee Community College** has again received funding from the U.S. Department of State to bring four Egyptian students to the College for the Fall semester.

As part of the Community College Initiative-Egypt (CCI-E), the visiting students are required to have mentor families during their stay in Tallahassee. The four male students will arrive in Tallahassee around August 7. Mentor families are needed to host them until they can move into their apartments August 19, and to serve as mentor families throughout the year.

"Speaking from personal experience, serving as a host family for an international student is an incomparable learning experience that enriches your life and the life of the student" said Jensen. "It's a great partnership and a win-win situation for both parties."

Most students participating in CCI-E, including those who will attend **TCC**, come from underprivileged backgrounds and have never left their native country. All four students assigned to **TCC** for Fall 2009 have BS degrees from their country, and will be enrolled in our Information Technology and Business Certificate Programs.

The following is a mentor family FAQ. For more information or to volunteer as a mentor family, contact Betty Jensen by phone, (850) 201-8457, or email jensenb@tcc.fl.edu.

For more information, contact Betty Jensen by phone at 201-8457 or e-mail at jensenb@tcc.fl.edu.

TCC Needs Host Homes for Egyptian Students

Reporter: John Rogers

EMAIL ADDRESS: JOHN.ROGERS@WCTV.TV



Tallahassee Community College needs a few gracious people to house some foreign exchange students from Egypt.

In August, four students will move to Tallahassee for a year to take classes at **TCC**.

The College is one of three in the state with a program that takes students from underprivileged areas in Egypt and sends them to the U.S. for specialized training which they can take back to their home country.

TCC International Student Advisor Betty Jensen says, "Just so that they have a experience other than the college experience. We want the mentors to host them for about 10 days before they get placed in their apartment living."

Jensen says anyone who is interested can contact the school, including singles and couples.

Anyone interested is asked to contact Betty Jensen at (850) 201-8457.

TCC Offering Free College Prep Course this Summer

Reporter: John Rogers

EMAIL ADDRESS: JOHN.ROGERS@WCTV.TV

This summer, high school grads will have one more shot to polish their math and reading skills before going to college.

Tallahassee Community College is offering a free college prep course starting next week.

The GEAR UP Summer Bridge Program targets juniors and seniors in six area high schools.

The classes will prepare students for math and reading courses at a college level.

The program will be held June 8th through June 19th.

For more information, call Patricia Vickers at (850) 201-8315.

TCC Educational Talent Search Program sends two students to Washington, D.C.

Reporter: Associated Press

TCC NEWS RELEASE:

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. (June 2, 2009) – **Tallahassee Community College's** Educational Talent Search Program has selected John Roberts, Jr., and Johnny Thomas, III, both of whom just finished their sophomore year at East Gadsden High School, to represent Gadsden County Schools at the National Student Leadership Congress in Washington, D.C., June 6-11.

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.

In Washington, D.C., Roberts and Thomas will join students from across the country at the week-long conference, which develops leadership skills through activities such as political debate, community service and a tour of historic sites.

"Both (Roberts and Thomas) came highly recommended from their school guidance counselor and they have also been outstanding participants within our program," said Louis Dilbert, Program Specialist for the **TCC** Educational Talent Search Program. "To see young men with such discipline and ambition is inspiring.

"They will be excellent representatives for Gadsden County Schools, East Gadsden High School and **TCC's** Educational Talent Search Program."

Both students are also part of the Men of Distinction at East Gadsden High School.

For more information on **TCC's** Educational Talent Search Program, contact Louis Dilbert by phone, (850) 558-3645, or email dilbertl@tcc.fl.edu.

Summer programs aim to help under-served Big Bend high-school students

BY DOUG BLACKBURN
DEMOCRAT SENIOR WRITER

Tallahassee Community College and Florida A&M University are gearing up for a series of summer programs designed to make college a more attainable goal for traditionally under-served Big Bend high-school students.

Financed primarily with a multi-million dollar grant from the U.S. Department of Education, the national program is known as Gear Up.

There are four summer activities scheduled for students in middle and high school at Rickards, FAMU DRS, East Gadsden, West Gadsden, Jefferson and Carter-Parramore Academy.

TCC, the local fiscal agent for Gear Up, will host one-week, daylong summer bridge programs for juniors and seniors June 8-12 and 15-19. Free transportation and lunch will be provided as students receive assistance in reading and math in a project-based learning environment.

Florida A&M will offer a math, science and technology program for 25 students in late June. East Gadsden High and **TCC** will host three-week programs for support in all academic areas later this summer.

"Our goal is to help these students be better prepared to move on to college or a career, so that they can enhance their skills and graduate on time," said Mary Jane Tappen, deputy chancellor for curriculum, instruction and student services at the state Department of Education.

"While these programs are about preparing for steps after high school, the first part of that is to make sure they have the skills to be successful in their high school classes," Tappen added.

The summer programs will include pre- and post-assessments to measure what students have learned, Tappen said.

Gear Up is a 6-year, national program.

FUTURE TEACHER

Just out of high school, Heather Edwards wasn't sure where she wanted to go to college. But the scholarship she received through the TCC Foundation from the Wakulla Academic Boosters Association helped convince her that TCC was the right choice for her.

TCC gave Heather the chance to get comfortable in a college classroom before transferring to a university. She credits her success at Florida State University to the individual attention she received in her TCC classes.

I was lucky to be a TCC student and I am proud to be a TCC alum.

You can help the TCC Foundation make dreams of college come true by investing in TCC student scholarships.



(850) 201-8580

www.tcc.fl.edu/foundation



Gear Up aims to make college attainable for area students

BY DOUG BLACKBURN

DEMOCRAT SENIOR WRITER

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The summer programs will include pre- and post-assessments to measure what students have learned, Tappen said.

Gear Up is a six-year national program with \$3 million funding for each year. Interested parents or students should contact Arrhea Williams, assistant state project coordinator, at (850) 245-0835.

TCC offering free college prep course to local students

TCC, in partnership with the Florida Department of Education and sponsored by the U.S. Department of Education, is offering a summer bridge program to graduating seniors from six area high schools. The program targets high school seniors who would like to receive assistance in Reading and Mathematics so that they will be prepared for college-level work upon entrance to college. The GEAR UP

program targets juniors and seniors in the six GEAR UP high schools: East Gadsden High School, West Gadsden High School, Jefferson High School, Carter-Parramore Academy, James Rickards High School and FAMU Developmental Research School.

The GEAR UP Summer Bridge Program will be held on TCC's main campus and is a one-week program offered both the week of June 8-12 and the

week of June 15-19. Each session runs Monday-Friday, 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Free daily transportation and lunch will be provided. Students in Leon County will be given Star-Metro cards and there will be several bus pick-up sites in Jefferson and Gadsden Counties.

Students will receive assistance in Reading and Mathematics in a project-based learning environment. Each session will include a field trip to the

FAMU-FSU College of Engineering and the Challenger Learning Center. Students will be exposed to NASA engineering experiences and an IMAX program designed to excite and motivate them to enter science, technology, engineering and mathematics fields of study.

To learn more about the GEAR-UP Summer Bridge Program, call Patricia Vickers at (850)201-8315.

Gadsden Community Times - June 4, 2009



Financial Aid and Scholarships available

Coming from rural Gadsden County, I was very fortunate to receive a scholarship to TCC for being a first generation college student in my family. The faculty and staff at TCC were very caring and gave me a great deal of hands-on support.

Vanessa Jones,
TCC Class of 2008



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Students offer reflections of their time at Life Skills

Loved ones turn out for an emotional graduation

By TaMaryn Waters

DEMOCRAT STAFF WRITER

The idea of graduating high school seemed more a dream at times for many of this year's graduates at the Life Skills Center.

But a dream was fulfilled when 42 graduates, the school's largest class, walked across the stage Thursday night in the auditorium at [Tallahassee Community College](#). In front of more than 500 people, the grads proudly proclaimed, "I made it."

Tina Long, mother of Cassandra Long, said her daughter had butterflies in her stomach. She was equally nervous, but mostly excited.

"I didn't think she was going to make it," Long said, regarding her daughter's chances of graduating high school due to some struggles at her previous school. "I'm so happy for her."

Several students offered reflections of their time at Life Skills, a charter school that offers computer-based instruction and a chance to earn a standard high-school diploma.

Ronnie Smith talked about Regina Johnson, the school's assistant principal, and said she was like a "second mother" to him. Smith said Johnson was relentless when it came to getting him back in school when he began to choose work over going to class.

"This lady right here," Smith said, just before his voice trailed off and no one could hear his emotional tribute. Then he wrapped his arms around Johnson and the two shared a tight bear hug for several seconds, rocking back and forth.

When Smith's face emerged again, it was soaked with thankful tears.

Over and over, words of encouragement were shared to the Class of 2009.

"This new beginning represents a new opportunity for continued growth," said Principal Shellonda Rucker. "I'm very proud tonight."

Bill Law, president of [TCC](#) and the commencement speaker, acknowledged the fact that many of the graduates had already faced challenges, including teen pregnancy or dropping out of traditional public schools.

But the high-school diplomas are proof of their tenacity. He told them not to forget that.

"The path you have before you is the one you want to focus on," **Law** said, "not the one behind you."

Contact Reporter TaMaryn Waters at (850) 599-2162; e-mail tlwaters@tallahassee.com; or www.twitter.com/TaMarynWaters.

Additional Facts

Class of 2009

Erik Amnott

Dewonda Anderson

Jeffery Barnes Jr.

Aneatra Brown

Kenitra Coker

Geoffrey Coppin II

Daniel Crowell III

Amber Davis

Amber Dickey

Timothy Elias

Michelle Fray

Ceandra Gardner

Shawanza Gardner

William Gray Jr.

Tekera Haggins

Amaree Hall

Jekira Harris

Venus Harris

Patrice Herring

Danielle Hill

Casanova Hill

Harold Hills Jr.

Shandricka Holloman

Darius Jackson

Brittany Johnson

Darius Jones

Cassandra Long

Kaleb McGill

Brandon McInerney

Virginia Miller

D'Juan Minion

Christina Minor

Ian Moore

Jessica Moxley

Charmaine Murray

Jameelah Odariko

Robert Pelchat

Tracie Pena

Darnell Rozier

Lindsey Saha

Malcomn Simmons

Laquita Sloan

Ronnie Smith

Dominiquia Spencer

Shenijua Stephens

Kanya Thomas

Tyrishia Thomas

Roderick Vickers

Keyerra Wright

Tara Young

TCC Free College Prep Course

EMAIL ADDRESS: NEWS@WCTV.TV

High school students have one more shot to refine their math and reading skills before going away to college in the fall.

Tallahassee Community College is offering a free college prep course starting Monday.

The *GEAR UP* Summer Bridge Program targets juniors and seniors in six area high schools: East Gadsden High School, West Gadsden High School, Jefferson High School, Carter-Parramore Academy, Rickards High School, and FAMU Developmental Research School.

The classes will prepare students for math and reading courses at a college level.



The program will be held on **TCC's** main campus Monday through Friday from 9 AM to 3 PM until June 19th.

Free daily transportation and lunch will be provided.

For more information, call Patricia Vickers at (850) 201-8315.

Tallahassee Democrat - June 8, 2009

TCC seeks mentor families for Egyptian students

BY ANGELINE J. TAYLOR
DEMOCRAT STAFF WRITER

Tallahassee Community College has received funding from the U.S. Department of State to bring four Egyptian students to the institution for the fall semester.

As part of the Community-College Initiative-Egypt, the students are required to have mentor families.

The four male students will arrive in Tallahassee around Aug. 7. Mentor families are needed to host the students until they can move into their apartments Aug. 19.

Return to Tallahassee.com for more details.

US myths dispelled for Egyptians at TCC

Students in Tallahassee as part of international exchange program

By Angeline J. Taylor

DEMOCRAT STAFF WRITER



Four Egyptian students attending [Tallahassee Community College](#) couldn't contain their laughter Monday as they remembered cautionary tales thrown at them before coming to America.

"Living in America is dangerous," Mohamed Sadek said. "You can't walk the streets at night. People aren't friendly."

Nearly a year later, the four have dispelled the myths after taking part in a year-long international exchange program sponsored by the U.S. Department of State. They've seen the country's first black president elected.

"It was a big surprise for us — first time to see a group of people very excited about this election," Mohamed Ali said.

Sadek added, "It's not a normal election. It looked like all of America celebrated (like after) Brazil won the World Cup."

They have visited museums throughout the state. And soon, they hope to meet Gov. Charlie Crist. In the meantime, the group had one thing to say about the bad information they received.

"Let people communicate, read and understand," Sadek said with enthusiasm. "We are lucky to be here and understand. God made us different to know each other."

Students Ali, Sadek, Mostafa Abdelkhalik and Mervat Bebawy were chosen to come to [TCC](#) as part of the Community College International Development program. [TCC](#) received a grant of \$102,000 to pay for the students' rent, tuition, books and other needs for college, said Betty Jensen, international student advisor/counselor.

Mentor families housed students temporarily before they received apartments. Families also shared holidays and took students around town.

Florida's other institutions participating in the program are: Hillsborough Community College and Daytona State College. Jensen said it's the second year the country has provided grants to institutions around the country. However, it's the first time Egyptian students have been involved. She said the goal of the program is to immerse exchange students in American culture. They receive academic training in business administration or information technology. And, they get to compare American culture to their own.

"These students have brought so much to the community," Jensen said.

They've tackled American slang, taught a class in Egyptian culture in the spring and helped shape their career goals due to their stay in America. Ali and Sadek hope to set up a learning commons in Egypt similar to [TCC's](#) program.

The group's experience will help usher in the second batch of Egyptian students to [TCC](#) in August.

MORE FAMILIES NEEDED

[Tallahassee Community College's](#) Betty Jensen will welcome a new group of foreign exchange students to the area in August. She asks that anyone interested in serving as a mentor family contact her by e-mail at: jensenb@tcc.fl.edu.

Students "Gear Up" For College

Reporter: Lauren Searcy

EMAIL ADDRESS: LAUREN.SEARCHY@WCTV.TV

Students who just graduated from high school are getting some extra help preparing for college.

TCC and the Department of Education have joined forces for the *GEAR UP* program, which aims to refresh students in math and reading before their college transition.

The one week course works with students from six high schools in Leon, Jefferson and Gadsden county.

"It's actually helped me a lot because I used to hate math. But now, I have this math teacher and she's helping me understand math and it's so easy for me now," said Harrison Nichols, who is a "Gear Up" student.

"At first, I was nervous but once I got to know the teachers they were very helpful. I was able to figure out what I needed to improve on," said Shanka Farmer who is also a "Gear Up" student.

This course will be available for new students starting June 15th. Anyone interested can click on the link below this story and download an application.

Havana Herald, Gadsden County and The Wakulla News - June 11, 2009
Tallahassee Democrat - June 14, 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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TCC day camps introduces new career options for girls

TCC's Center for Workforce Development and Workforce Plus will hold a camp entitled Girls Empowered in Manufacturing (GEM), June 15-18. The camp will be held on TCC's main campus and attended by 25 girls, ages 16-18, pre-selected from Gadsden County schools.

Funding for the camp comes through a grant from the Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners and the Fabricators and Manufacturer's Association Foundation, International - Nuts, Bolts & Thingamajigs initiative. Additional support for the camp is provided by the Plumbers and Pipefitters Local 592.

GEM will introduce young women to welding and metal fabrication with the goal of encouraging them to consider a career in those fields.

Girls who successfully complete the GEM camp will participate in a second camp June 22-25 - Mentoring A Girl in Construction (MAGIC). The MAGIC camp will introduce the young women to various skilled construction crafts, including masonry, plumbing, solar energy and electrical.

The second week of camp is supported through funds provided by the

Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners, TCC, Workforce Plus, the City of Tallahassee Utilities Department, FL Masonry Apprentices & Educational Foundation, Inc. and Chapter 72 of the National Association of Women in Construction (NAWIC).

According to Rick Frazier, Director at TCC's Center for Workforce Development, these two camps offer a great opportunity for young women to learn and experience non-traditional jobs.

"For women to be competitive with their male counterparts, women need to think about getting trained in the occupations typically held by men," said Frazier. "These non-traditional jobs provide a good-living wage. People can make over \$12 per hour (the State of FL - Agency for Workforce Innovation lists welding as an in-demand occupation in north Florida, with an average wage of over \$12 per hour) just by making the right career choice. Our camps want to offer options to young women entering the workforce in a few years."

For more information on these TCC camps, contact 201-8337 or email trades@tcc.fl.edu.

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Girls to start TCC's Girls Empowered in Manufacturing camp today

DEMOCRAT STAFF REPORT

For the next two weeks, [Tallahassee Community College](http://www.tcc.fl.edu) will offer Gadsden County girls opportunities to learn about welding, metal fabrication and construction.

Today, [TCC's](http://www.tcc.fl.edu) Center for Workforce Development and Workforce Plus will start a camp called Girls Empowered in Manufacturing (GEM).

It will end on June 18 for pre-selected Gadsden County girls ages 16 to 18 years old.

Students who successfully complete this week's camp will go on to the Mentoring a Girl in Construction or MAGIC camp from June 22-25.

GEM will introduce girls to welding and metal fabrication with the goal of encouraging them to consider a career in those areas. MAGIC is scheduled to introduce girls to various skilled construction crafts including masonry, plumbing, solar energy and electrical.

Return to Tallahassee.com for more details

Girls offered training in Girls Empowered in Manufacturing camp

BY ANGELINE J. TAYLOR
DEMOCRAT STAFF WRITER

T'Erica Frost said she was ready Monday morning. She and 14 of her peers were loaded on a bus and driven to [Tallahassee Community College](#) from Quincy to take part in a camp that could change their lives.

The 16-to-18 year-olds were selected to learn all about welding, metal fabrication and eventually introduce them to construction crafts, masonry, plumbing and electrical work. The camp called Girls Empowered in Manufacturing (GEM) is scheduled to last from June 15-18.

Return to [Tallahassee.com](#) for more details.



Instructor Irvine Leonard fits 16-year-old T'Erica Frost with safety gear for welding in the GEM program. (Angeline Taylor/Democrat)

Comment on Education

Now is the time for higher education.

Florida State University (FSU) announced last week that both the Tallahassee and Panama City campus will face program cuts at the same time community colleges are seeing an increase in enrollment.

[Tallahassee Community College](#) President Bill Las is quoted in Florida Trend stating that community college enrollment historical rises during economic downturns.

He pointed out that "people have the time and see the need for additional skills."

Chipola College, Gulf Coast Community College and [Tallahassee Community College](#) have all experienced growth in the past two years.

College	2008	2009
Chipola	1,954	2,160
Gulf Coast	5,482	5,739
Tallahassee	12,990	13,384

It seems strange that larger institutes of learning are having to cut back their offered classes when the community colleges are seeing a student increase.

This area was able to keep the Panama City campus because they got together and let their legislators know cuts weren't a good idea.

Now we need students to enroll in the various local colleges. It's a good time for learning and it will help keep these colleges in place.

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, Folan 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.

Location: 319/Hwy 267 Bloxham cut off

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