

# TALLAHASSEE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

*In the News*

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February 18, 2012- March 14, 2012



# TALLAHASSEE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

## *In the News*

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# TALLAHASSEE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

*In the News*



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## Here's hoping some archaeologists can explain my shell-shocked yard

By Bonnie Holub

Trying to plant flowers in our yard is as frustrating as trying to hammer a nail into concrete. The composition of our soil is quite different from that of eastern Iowa, where I watched my grandmother plant gladiolas, peonies, roses, petunias and strawberries each year in our garden. The shovel my uncle wielded slid smoothly into the rich dark earth, but it's not so easy in our Florida yard.

Our property overlooking Ochlockonee Bay is made of seashells. You won't see them at first because a thin layer of dirt and sparse grass hides their presence. But in trying to dig a flower bed or a post hole in our yard, you'll be in for a jolt when shovel hits shell. The metal shovel blade is an inefficient tool for penetrating layer after layer of compressed sea shells. And usually, instead of digging down, we tend to build up, planting our flowers in a high bed of purchased potting soil. For post holes, a motorized auger works nicely.

So why is our yard so shell shocked? There are at least two theories. One is that our house was built on an ancient shell midden, or garbage dump, created by early inhabitants whose main diet consisted of shellfish from adjacent waters. Once the mussels or oysters were consumed, the shells were thrown aside. The other theory is that over time the shells were deposited along the banks of the present-day bay by tides and changing land formations. But these ideas are mostly speculation evolving from neighborly conversations, and I've never sought the opportunity to check it out with someone who might know for certain. But that's about to change.

During the month of March, archaeologists will be making presentations in Wakulla County in recognition of Florida Archaeology Month. I believe at least one, if not all, of these professionals will be able to help explain the reason for the mass of shells. In particular, Nancy White, a professor of archaeology at the University of South Florida, has conducted archaeological research in the Florida Panhandle for more than 25 years and is an expert on early inhabitants in our region. She'll be able to rule out, or rule in, the shell midden theory.

In addition to White, Florida Archaeology Network Executive Director William Lees will talk about the natural bridge campaign, and underwater archaeologists Franklin Price and Lindsay Smith will speak about underwater archaeological preserves and Florida's Panhandle Shipwreck Trail, an underwater trail that consists of shipwrecks spread from Mexico Beach to Pensacola.

James Dunbar, formerly with the Florida Bureau of Archaeology, will speak about evidence pointing to the first Ice-Age Floridians at the Page-Ladson (Aucilla River) and Wakulla Spring sites. "The oldest sites on the Eastern Seaboard are showing up in the Panhandle," said Dunbar.

The March archaeology series is free and open to the public. Each presentation will be 6:30-7:30 p.m. at the [Tallahassee Community College](#) Wakulla Center, 5 Crescent Way, Crawfordville. For more information about the series, contact Barbara Hines at [bhines@uwf.edu](mailto:bhines@uwf.edu) or (850) 877-2206.

And if you have more information on how to plant flowers in a shell midden, please contact me.

## Universities and colleges are bracing for more funding cuts

BY DOUG BLACKBURN

Lawmakers quickly got on board when Gov. Rick Scott said restoring \$1 billion in funding for the state's elementary and secondary schools is a top priority for this year's legislative session.

But when Scott revealed a budget that made no changes in the funding for higher education, legislators — facing a shortfall of more than \$1.4 billion — essentially ignored him.

Now, for the sixth straight year, university and college officials are bracing for cuts that will make their jobs even more challenging than they already are.

With two weeks remaining in the 2012 session, the House and Senate have taken decidedly different approaches to cutting higher education. It's not clear what path a compromise will take, but every scenario being discussed results in less money for Florida State University, Florida A&M University and [Tallahassee Community College](#).

The House is taking money from the universities' general revenue, or annual operating budgets — \$19 million for FSU, \$4.3 million for FAMU. The House budget also calls for an 8 percent base tuition hike, with the universities empowered to request up to an additional 7 percent increase.

The Senate budget, approved on Thursday, doesn't touch the universities' general revenue but it removes about \$400 million from the 11 institutions' cash reserves. FSU would lose \$55 million; FAMU, \$11 million.

This is being called a one-time-only tactic by senators, who have compared it to tapping into trust funds — another revenue source that has been drawn from as lawmakers struggled to produce budgets during the ongoing economic downturn.

The Senate budget does not include a base tuition increase, which is in line with the governor's approach. The universities would still be allowed to request tuition increases up to 15 percent.

"(The cuts) are getting to be a refrain," said Eric Barron, FSU's president. "I'm hoping I won't have to say it again next year."

If forced to choose, Barron said he prefers the Senate approach. But he noted that money stored in reserves in many cases is designated for hiring new faculty and

funding research projects, and losing 22 percent of FSU's reserves will reduce the university's flexibility.

Sen. Evelyn Lynn, a Republican from Daytona Beach who heads that chamber's Education Committee, said she and her colleagues were careful not to remove any allocated reserve money. Universities are required by law to maintain a 5 percent reserve.

Barron questioned how FSU and other universities can be expected to be essential to the state's economic revival while having their budgets cut for six straight years. FSU has had more than \$112 million removed from its operating budget during the past five years.

Lynn, reviewing the higher education budget before the full Senate on Thursday, said she would prefer to be increasing the budget for Florida's universities.

"I'd like to see dollars come out of economic development for our higher education system. It's not good to cut education, and it's not good to have to cut health and human services. This is a very tough year," Lynn said.

Gov. Scott, meeting briefly with reporters on Thursday, said he supported the Senate using the universities' reserve money.

At FAMU, where President James H. Ammons and his leadership team last year closed 23 programs during a restructuring process designed to adjust to \$44 million in reduced appropriations over the past five years, the prospect of additional cuts is hard to contemplate.

"Any cut to our base budget is going to be devastating," Ammons said. "Any further cuts are going to put us at a point where we're looking at additional program cuts and possible layoffs."

The different approaches to pre-K through high school funding and money for higher education could be as simple as politics. Scott's call for a state spending plan that includes \$1 billion more for public schools comes a year after the Republican controlled Legislature cut \$1.3 billion from education.

Peter Brown, assistant director of the polling institute at Quinnipiac University, said there was no way legislators would say no to additional funding for K-12 education. Universities, he said, are a different matter.

## Robert Stuart relishes ability to meld teaching and theater at Young Actors

Randi Atwood

Robert Stuart, artistic director at Young Actors Theatre, is a Tallahasseean born and bred, but for the two years when he was in first and second grade, his family lived in Pisco, a small fishing village in Peru, while his father, a meteorology professor at FSU, participated in a field study.

"We had no TV or movies or anything, so we had to be creative in our play, just let our imaginations run wild," remembers Stuart. "Thinking back, that's where I probably got the theatrical spark."

His mother was an amateur singer, and his uncle a professional opera singer. Both parents supported his creativity.

"I grew up on the standards, the 'Great American Songbook,'" he says. "My parents really encouraged us to listen to that type of music, and to watch musicals, so that's how I got interested in musical theater."

Stuart attended YAT while in middle school, prior to getting involved in plays and musicals at Lincoln High School. He went on to become an English major at FSU, with a minor in education.

"I think I've always been a natural teacher," says Stuart. "My dad was a teacher, and five of his siblings were teachers, so I guess it's in my blood. But it's also something I always enjoyed."

During Stuart's freshman year at FSU, Byron Smith, the choral director at Lincoln High, asked him to help with student productions. He and Valerie Smith (a fellow Lincoln alumnus who is now the administrative director at YAT) became the assistant directors at the school, and after graduation in 1992, Stuart began teaching at Lincoln full time.

"We had a huge theater department (at Lincoln) with a lot of students who also went to YAT," remembers Stuart. "We did three or four shows every year, and by the end of my first year, I was teaching drama full time. By the time I left in 1999, I had 275 kids in the theater program and Lincoln had two full-time drama teachers."

In 1995, one of his students was auditioning for "A Midsummer Night's Dream" at YAT and asked Stuart to read an audition scene with him. After he did so, Tina Williams, YAT's Executive Director, pulled him aside.

"She said, 'We need some adult actors for this show. Would you be willing to be in it?' And I said, 'Sure.' I figured I'd get a small part, a guard or something," he laughs. "But a few days later, the student told me I had been cast as Oberon, the lead!"

Stuart began performing with YAT whenever he could and teaching there in the afternoons after his regular school day. In 1999, he left Lincoln in order to serve as the head of the performing arts department at the brand-new Chiles High School.

"I loved it. I never worked so hard in my life, but it was a great place to teach," he remembers. "After one year, we were able to hire another drama teacher, and we worked closely with the choral department to put on these huge shows."

He was named Teacher of the Year at Chiles in 2001 and remained there until 2005, when he finished a master's degree in theater education. That's when he got a call from Tina Williams, offering him the position of artistic director of Young Actors Theatre.

"I really struggled with what to do, whether to leave Chiles, but it was time to try something new," he says. "I don't regret it at all. I have a little more flexibility here at YAT than in a traditional classroom setting, and that allows me to do some things I couldn't do otherwise."

Stuart also has performed in a number of community theater productions over the past several years, and is an adjunct faculty member at [Tallahassee Community College](#), where he teaches improvisation and introduction to theater classes.

"I like teaching theater to people who don't know about theater," he explains. "At YAT, it's great to work with kids who appreciate theater already, but when you can introduce a new person to this incredible unifying art, it's a rare thing."

"I think that all kids — all people, actually — should take an acting class," he adds. "We've had some people from YAT go on to careers in theater and film, but there are so many others who went through the program who benefit in other ways. They're able to teach using the techniques of vocal projection. They learned compassion in scene work that they use as nurses and caregivers."

**Robert Stuart relishes ability to meld teaching and theater at Young Actors...***continued*

And just turn on the news, the debates — talk about theater! — it's everywhere!"

Stuart is the director of YAT's upcoming production of "To Kill a Mockingbird," based on the classic novel by Harper Lee. He is also playing the role of Bob Ewell, the violent alcoholic antagonist of the story.

"It's actually very difficult — he's the first truly mean character I've ever played," he says. "I remember reading something that Meryl Streep said about the art of acting — that to make a character come to life, you can't look for the differences between you and that character. You have to find the similarities. And when you discover that in a really unlikable character, it's kind of scary."

Stuart acknowledges that "Mockingbird" addresses subjects such as racial injustice that are difficult for young people, and includes some dialogue that he calls hateful.

"But the kids handle it so well, and they can all relate. When we first started, I asked them all to think of a time when they'd been a victim of hate, and every single one of them has experienced it," he says. "That's why I really wanted to do this show. I mean, it's set in 1935, but it's still as relevant today as it ever was."

## POLITICS and POLICY: US Education Chief Worried About Florida Grant Effort

By BILL KACZOR, Associated Press

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. (AP) — U.S. Education Secretary Arne Duncan said he's worried about dissension over Florida's \$700 million federal Race to the Top grant during a visit to the state's capital city.

The Obama administration's education chief met briefly with Gov. Rick Scott but held longer meetings with state and local education officials and business and union leaders at the Florida Capitol after attending at town hall session with students, faculty and the public at [Tallahassee Community College](#).

Duncan said during the town hall meeting that fractured relationships were hampering implementation of the grant that's designed to promote innovation in state public school systems. A teacher merit pay plan is a key component of Florida's proposal.

Florida Education Association president Andy Ford told Duncan at the Capitol meeting that the statewide teachers union has been shut out of the grant planning process since Scott, a Republican, was elected governor.

"If the reforms that you want to put in place are going to succeed and have sustainability then we have to be involved," Ford said.

Duncan agreed there needs to be collaboration and said teachers and their unions must be at the table.

"To be there to maintain the status quo, no," Duncan said. "But to have anyone's voice, teachers particularly, not in the mix I don't think is helpful."

He said he has spoken to Florida Education Commissioner Gerard Robinson about the matter and believes he's committed to finding a solution.

"Hopefully we can work through this stuff," Duncan said. "It's not sustainable, it's not possible if anyone — students, parents, business, anyone — is out of the picture, particularly teachers."

Robinson did not speak to the issue during the meeting. Later, he said he couldn't comment on anything Ford said because the FEA has filed a legal challenge to a new law passed by the Republican-controlled Legislature, which also includes a teacher merit pay plan and ends tenure for

new hires.

Robinson, though, said the state is working with union members on the local level. He noted the state Department of Education has approved grant plans submitted by 59 of the participating 65 school districts and that each was developed in collaboration with local unions.

Scott shared some thoughts ranging from early childhood education to college during a private meeting that lasted about two minutes, said Duncan spokeswoman Liz Utrup.

State University System Chancellor Frank Brogan said he was worried about President Barack Obama's statement in his State of the Union address that federal aid should be withheld from colleges that don't keep net tuition down and provide good value.

Brogan said it would be unfair to treat states such as Florida, which currently charges about \$5,000 a year for in-state tuition, the same as those that charge much more. Florida currently ranks about fifth lowest in in-state tuition costs, Brogan said.

Duncan responded that tuition would be just one of several factors considered including the performance of students that get federal Pell grants and student debt levels.

Speakers at the community college said there should be financial assistance for part-time students and those enrolled in non-degree programs that lead to certification for jobs.



## The importance and value of languages

### Foreign language requirements seek to broaden students' educations

Stephanie Jarek

It's a fact most majors at Florida State University require students to fulfill a foreign language requirement. International affairs majors join biology and chemistry majors in the classroom to learn a new language and discover a different culture. It also allows students to broaden their horizons and potentially might make them more marketable in an economy becoming increasingly dependent on international relations.

Dr. William Cloonan, chair of the Department of Modern Languages and Linguistics, said he finds that knowing a foreign language can be an essential part of a student's education and development in the current world.

"In a world of increased globalization, it's difficult to imagine someone being only monolingual," said Cloonan. "I mean if we do talk 'international this, international that,' it's rather essential that we have the means of function in an international situation and sometimes people say, 'Well, everyone speaks English,' that's obviously not true.

More so, if you are in a group where you don't speak anything but English and everyone else has to speak English despite whatever languages they have, you are really in a situation of inferiority. It might look like you are in control, but, basically, you're the 'onion' in the group. You are the one that slows everything down because you are so limited."

Cloonan said many students often have a hard time choosing a language that appeals to them when trying to decide which language to pursue. He said Spanish has not only the largest program of any foreign language at FSU, but also that the average student would benefit the most from Spanish because of FSU's location and diverse population.

"Let's say you come to Florida State and you have no specific interest in languages, but you have to do the language requirement," said Cloonan. "You should give serious consideration to Spanish. Why? It's a language spoken in Florida. It's something that you can use in your daily life if you live in Florida. Also, with regard to starting something like Spanish, we have all kinds of dealings, economic dealings, financial dealings, with Latin America and South America. It's an extremely useful language."

Cloonan said he also believes French to be beneficial because of Florida's proximity to the Caribbean and the

potential for interactions there with French-speaking nations.

"People study French these days, not just for Paris, and the perfume and the fashion, but for the French Caribbean," said Cloonan. "Again, for people who are interested in doing business with the Caribbean, they will find Spanish and French very useful languages."

French is another popular language at Florida State, because, like Spanish, it is a language frequently studied in public high schools, so many students have an advantage that makes the class material easier because of its familiarity.

Sara Rotunda, an FSU senior, said she is continuing her studies of French from high school.

"I've just never been great with languages," said Rotunda. "Public schools in Florida don't really teach the basics of language and grammar, in my opinion, well enough. I have trouble getting the basic parts of language down because I was never taught it, but that's just me. Others might have a different experience."

While Rotunda has struggled with her studies in French, she said she has found them enjoyable and that she sees definite benefits to the foreign language requirement.

"As a whole, I think as a program it's a good policy that they have," said Rotunda. "It is important, as Americans, to be worldly and knowledgeable not just about other languages, but also about other cultures and everything."

Biology major, Charounson Saintilus, is studying French as well. She said she has enjoyed it and found the language so beneficial that he decided to declare a minor in French.

"It enables us to become more educated as not only citizens, but as college students, knowing a second language can help you in communicating with your future career or job," said Saintilus. "Like, I want to become a doctor someday, and I think hopefully knowing French will help me communicate with patients and things of that nature."

## The importance and value of languages...

*continued*

Ashley Bridges, junior, said she feels the foreign language requirement is a positive element to a student's liberal arts degree, because it molds them into a more intellectual person.

"I think it's good to just be able to [speak a different language] because that's pretty much how we relate to other cultures, so it's nice to just be able to learn about that because you don't always just learn the language," said Bridges. "You learn things about their customs and all those other kinds of things too [...] It makes you a little more well-rounded."

While Bridges does agree that taking a foreign language is definitely a constructive part of a student's education, she said she worries, like many other students, that she will have to fulfill foreign language classes that she thought she had already fulfilled after taking advanced placement classes in high school.

"I took five years in high school, and I passed my AP exam thinking I wouldn't have to, but turns out I might just depending on how the testing goes [...] I'm not really dreading it because I took so much of it already," said Bridges. "I'm kind of interested in seeing if I can actually remember anything because I haven't done it since senior year."

Jackie Michaels, a junior, completed her language requirements at [Tallahassee Community College](#) before she transferred to FSU. She said that [TCC](#) stressed the importance of taking required language classes as soon as possible so they would not hinder graduating students, whereas she has not observed this push at FSU among classmates.

"I definitely think they need to make it more aware that they need to take [a foreign language], because I know that a lot of people get stuck at the end having to take it," said Michaels. "At [TCC](#), they stressed that we should take it early on, and I feel like a lot of the people in my major are now taking their language now instead of taking it the first two years."

However, Michaels said she observed she didn't get a lot of options to choose from when deciding which language to pursue through her studies.

"Where I went at [TCC](#), there weren't that many options," said Michaels. "I think it was you could take Spanish or French, and I thought Spanish would be more applicable."

Cloonan said a lot of atypical languages have been gaining tremendous popularity among FSU's student population.

"Our fastest growing major is Japanese," said Cloonan. "That is not an easy language. After that, perhaps, Chinese, and perhaps, Arabic. Now, of course, a lot of people are going to these languages because they think it will have great commercial value [...] These are the languages that are really growing. They are growing because people are interested, also because they are superbly taught."

Cloonan said what is really drawing the students to the Japanese language is the caliber of the teachers among the Japanese program, even in the absence of a tenured professor.

"Our program is essentially run by Japanese TAs, by adjunct professors," said Cloonan. "Now, an adjunct professor is someone who might teach one or two courses but is not a tenure earning professor. Really, an adjunct is required to do the teaching and then go home, but that's really not the case. These people very generously give of their time."

While some people might observe these languages break the mold from the typical foreign language classes, Cloonan said it is important for students to find their own niche and choose something that interests them and fulfills their needs.

"It depends on what people are interested in," said Cloonan. "Some people have chosen Japanese or Chinese because they find it more intellectually challenging, more beautiful to listen to than other languages, but in terms of being very practical, the Asian languages and Arabic are very good."

Nick Cox, a junior, said he decided to fulfill his foreign language credits by taking German because part of his family came from Germany.

"I have a little bit of German heritage," said Cox. "I think I'm maybe a quarter German, so I thought that would be interesting to take and learn from my roots."

Cox said he has enjoyed learning about heritage, but that his English has also improved as a result of taking German.

## The importance and value of languages...

*continued*

"I think any foreign language is pretty enjoyable just because you learn about the culture for one, and taking a foreign language sort of strengthens your use of English or strengthens your primary language," said Cox.

Senior Logan Qualk said he also finds some language studies to be beneficial, but he was forced to change majors because when he transferred into FSU, he wasn't left with enough time to complete his Bachelors on time.

"It was just the extra time," said Qualk. "It would be an extra fall and I didn't want to do that. So, I switched my major."

Qualk said he finds the strict attendance policies in the foreign language courses to be troublesome because students can potentially fail, even if they are getting the good grades.

"You are only allowed to miss two classes and after you miss two classes you get two points off your grade per absence," said Qualk. "That's absurd, I think. I took it pass/fail. It caused me to actually get a U instead of a pass, because I had the right grades, I just had too many absences."

Qualk was previously an international affairs major, which is a major that requires a foreign language. Since taking Spanish, Qualk switched his major to social sciences, dropping his language requirement and setting him back on schedule to graduate on time.

## Leon County Schools kick off campaign to renew half-cent sales tax

Lisa Fingerroot

Leon County School Superintendent Jackie Pons is hoping voters will again approve a half-cent sales tax for the school system when the current sales tax ends this year.

Pons stood in front of Kate Sullivan Elementary School this morning with officials from the Greater Tallahassee Chamber of Commerce and [Tallahassee Community College](#) President Jim Murdaugh and announced he will be seeking voter approval to continue the sales tax for another 15 years. The current sales tax was approved by voters in 2002 and ends on Dec. 31, 2012.

At Pons' request, the chamber has selected a group of business people to conduct an independent review of the school system's plans for the money. The group will be led by [TCC's](#) Murdaugh and will report its findings and recommendations to the full Chamber, whose executive board will determine whether to endorse the sales tax as it did a decade ago.

The sales tax currently generates about \$18 million a year and is earmarked only for building construction, maintenance and renovation.

"I'm so proud of our community because here in Tallahassee, our community gets it, they value education," Pons said of the voters' decision to allow the current sales tax.

The school system has created a list of needs and chamber committee members will take a school-bus tour next month to inspect each of the requests to determine whether they agree with Pons' priorities or have different ideas.

## TCC Hosts Another Successful TSMUN Conference

### TCC RELEASE

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. (February 22, 2012) -

**Tallahassee Community College's** Model United Nations (Model UN) hosted its 16th annual Tallahassee Southern High School Model United Nations Conference (TSMUN) on Friday, February 17 at Florida State University's Augustus B. Turnbull Conference Center.

Two hundred eighty students from 17 high schools across the state participated in a day of political debates dealing with international conflict and resolution. Each year, TSMUN provides the opportunity for middle school and high school students to participate in international dialogue by taking on the role of foreign diplomats within the United Nations.

The conference, organized and staffed by **TCC's** Model UN students, consisted of extensive research dealing with international economic and political issues chosen and researched by **TCC** participants. In addition to the conference day activities, **TCC's** Model UN students traveled to participating high schools, where they held workshops and trained both high school students and faculty advisors.

This year, the General Assembly Plenary, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) and the Security Council were simulated. The simulations allowed participating students the opportunity to discuss current global issues, create resolutions to international matters, and participate in diplomatic debate.

For the past 16 years, the TSMUN conference has served as an excellent recruitment tool to bring some of the best local high school students to **Tallahassee Community College**, offering an opportunity to gain knowledge of international affairs as well as offering two-year scholarships to students who wish to participate in Model UN on a collegiate level.

This year's keynote speaker for opening ceremonies was Mark Schlakman, J.D., the senior program director for the Center for the Advancement of Human Rights at FSU and previously the Foreign Affairs Officer for the U.S. Department of State and Alternate Representative for the United States' Permanent Mission to the Organization of American States.

For more information on **TCC's** Model UN, contact Dr. Richard Murgu at (850) 201-8145 or Dr. Thomas Waller at (850) 201-8159.

## Leon County School Superintendent asks county to extend half-cent sales tax

Lisa Fingerroot

Leon County School Superintendent Jackie Pons hopes Tallahassee's business leaders will get behind his plan to extend the half-cent sales tax earmarked for school building, renovation and maintenance and help him promote it to voters who have the final say.

Pons announced his proposal Wednesday to extend the tax for another 15 years and said he has asked the Greater Tallahassee Chamber of Commerce to conduct an independent review of the spending plan just as it did in 2002 when the current sales tax was endorsed by the chamber and approved by voters.

"We promised and we did exactly what we said we would do," Pons said of the spending plan for the current sales tax. "Leon County Schools promised voters that the half-penny sales tax would produce meaningful improvements for our children. We have kept faith with the voters and made significant improvements at every school in the county. Now it's time to plan ahead and make sure we have sufficient resources for the next 15 years."

**Tallahassee Community College** President Jim Murdaugh will lead the group selected to participate in the chamber review and has divided the participants into teams focused on areas where the members have expertise. For example, the teams include renovation and maintenance, new construction, remodeling, transportation and technology. They will tour each school in the district next month and review plans made by school officials. Group members might see things in a different light or prioritize differently than school officials and Pons values that input, he said.

Chamber Chairman Bill Moor was on the tour in 2002 and said it was very important for members of the community to go to the schools and see, for example, a roof leaking so they knew what was needed.

Because each team has a different focus, it will probably prioritize needs differently, Murdaugh said. He and the team leaders will create a final master list of priorities and submit the report to the chamber executive board, which will decide whether to endorse the plan.

Endorsement and agreement with the school plan are not guaranteed, Moor said.

"I don't have to tell you how important Leon County schools are to **Tallahassee Community College** and the success of all higher education," Murdaugh said to a small group of business leaders and school officials gathered at Kate Sullivan Elementary School Wednesday to hear Pons's announcement. The schools are "literally building the future of Tallahassee, Florida, and the country."

Pons understands the need to explain the need for the tax extension and faces it, Murdaugh added.

"Our community couldn't wait on this," Pons said. "I can't say to the Legislature 'If you don't have the courage to lead, I don't have the courage to lead myself.'"

The current half-cent sales tax has consistently generated about \$18 million per year for the school system's capital projects like construction, maintenance, renovation and even the purchases of buses and technology. About 30 percent of those collected funds are generated by visitors, according to the chamber.

The chamber has been asked to submit its report by the end of April so the proposal could be ready for either the September primary ballot or the general election ballot in November. The current sale tax voter-approved time limit ends on Dec. 31, 2012.

## Update: Buckeye Technologies CEO Crowe talks economic development

By Jeff Burlew

5:40 p.m. update

John Crowe, chairman and CEO of Buckeye Technologies, gave advice today on what Tallahassee should do to recruit businesses to town.

"You want to bring in somebody who's going to be here for the long term and not just come in short term, set up and then pull up tent and leave one day," he said.

Crowe, a Florida State University Hall of Famer, said Tallahassee has the logistics that are attractive to companies.

"Whoever you're asking to come in, you need to consider where is my competition and what advantage does that give them over this location?"

His comments came during a forum hosted by the Economic Development Council of Tallahassee/Leon County.

Crowe talked about his own companies ups and downs, saying that while it was saddled with debt a decade ago, its financial picture has brightened. The company, which has a plant in Taylor County, makes cellulose products used for everything from diapers and wipes to LCD screens and currency paper.

"Wipes aren't just for babies anymore," Crowe said during one of the forum's lighter moments. "The whole world is wiping something."

1:45 p.m. update

Officials with the Economic Development Council say their efforts over the past two years have led to the creation of 1,810 jobs over the past couple of years.

EDC Chairman Karen Moore said that includes 1,000 primary jobs, which helped create another 810 spinoff jobs. The jobs amount to a total payroll of just over \$74 million dollars.

Check back with Tallahassee.com for more on this story.

Morning update

The Economic Development Council of Tallahassee/Leon County is hosting an economic-development forum today at Goodwood Museum.

The event, set for noon to 5:30 p.m., will feature business leaders from around the state and nation, including Jim Murdaugh, president of [Tallahassee Community College](#); Dean Barber, president and CEO of Barber Business Advisors of Dallas; and Mark O'Bryant, president of Tallahassee Memorial HealthCare. The keynote speaker is John Crowe, chairman and CEO of Buckeye Technologies of Memphis, Tenn.

Beth Kirkland, executive director of the EDC, said discussions will touch on topics from local business retention and expansion to the world economy.

"These are professionals who are tracking what's going on in the world economy," Kirkland said. "And we have the opportunity to share the strengths of Tallahassee and our regional but also to find out what are their thoughts on how Florida has changed in its approach to economic development."

A panel discussion is also scheduled with Barber; Marty Reid, director of PricewaterhouseCoopers of Atlanta; and Thomas Henry, partner of PricewaterhouseCoopers of Atlanta. The talk will be moderated by Don Kirkman, president of Florida's Great Northwest

## Tinsley Floyd

Tinsley W. Floyd Tinsley W. Floyd, 70, passed away Saturday, February 18, 2012 at Centre Pointe Health Care in Tallahassee. Memorial Services will be held 2:00 PM Saturday, February 25, 2012 at Culley's Meadow-Wood Funeral Home, Timberlane Chapel. There will be a reception to follow immediately in the MeadowWood Room. Mr. Floyd graduated from E.C. Glass High School, Lynchburg, Virginia in 1959. He went to College at East Tennessee State, was a member of Sigma Alpha Epsilon Fraternity and graduated in 1964. Mr. Floyd taught economics at Florida A&M University for 9 years and [Tallahassee Community College](#) for 26½years. A loyal sports enthusiast, he was inducted into the [Tallahassee Community College](#) Athletic Hall of Fame in 2007. Survivors include his wife Kay; five sisters Louise Sawyer, Mae Guthrie(A.T.), Katie Faulcone, Sammie Fowler(Larry), and Edna Fogle. Tinsley was a wonderful husband and outstanding teacher but most of all he was known as a great friend. In lieu of flowers memorial contributions may be made in Tinsley Floyd's memory to the T.C.C. Athletic Book Scholarship Fund, T.C.C. Foundation, 444 Appleyard Dr., Tallahassee, FL, 32304.



## Our Opinion: Building a contender

### EDC is on the right track for job growth

The day after the big Florida State-Duke basketball game here in Tallahassee, it might be worth using a sports metaphor to appreciate efforts to boost this region's economy and provide good jobs for the people who live here.

As with a sports team, just saying you want your economy to be stronger and more competitive doesn't automatically make it happen. Likewise, pouring money toward luring a hot coach — or a hot business — holds no guarantees.

What eventually creates a successful program is building a solid foundation, getting all the right pieces in place, and then continuing to work hard and feed the effort.

That's what the Economic Development Council of Tallahassee/Leon County has been doing.

The EDC was host Thursday to an economic-development forum at the Goodwood Museum. Among the speakers, both local and national, was Dean Barber, president and CEO of Barber Business Advisors, a Dallas-based company that specializes in economic development consulting and helping companies choose suitable sites.

Mr. Barber spent some time with the Editorial Board before the forum and helped us examine what we have, what we need and how we can move forward.

Like the successful sports team, this region has built a foundation.

We have access to good transportation, with Interstate 10. We are in a defense corridor, which makes us attractive to companies in aviation, software and electronics as well as research spinoffs. We have an educated workforce. We have our universities, not only educating that workforce but providing research that can lead to new entrepreneurial ideas. We have available job training, with [Tallahassee Community College](#) being a leader. And we have a good quality of life, again with our universities as a centerpiece.

Thanks in part to the EDC, we also are nurturing existing entrepreneurs. Mr. Barber praised the roundtables and individual meetings that can help solve problems — some as simple as adding a turn lane to help a business receive deliveries — and develop lasting relationships.

Indeed, though the economy is hardly bursting with life

anywhere, we have seen success stories, from attracting established companies (Event Photography Group) to encouraging startups (Bing Energy International) to seeing an existing company grow (Affiliated Computer Services).

Mr. Barber had many other nuggets of advice. He sees great value in manufacturing (don't just think steel mills; think software). In fact, he says, a local economy without manufacturing is a house of cards. And he sees little value in financial incentives, unless they come at the tail end of negotiations — “icing on the cake” — to help seal a deal.

Finally, he warned against expecting too much from groups like the EDC. “An economic developer cannot create jobs,” he said. There is no guarantee of net job growth, especially in a community like Tallahassee where a major employer — in our case, state government — is being hit hard.

But the EDC is on the right track. With a team effort, the victories will come. In the end, we can be a winner.

## TCC Black History Celebration

**Tallahassee Community College** continued its celebration of Black History Thursday.

**Tallahassee Community College** continued its celebration of Black History Thursday.

Hundreds packed into the Student Union Ballroom for the Gospel Extravaganza and Soul Food Festival. The event showcases local gospel choirs and entertainers. As part of the school's month-long celebration of Black History.

"Another thing is for the Gospel Extravaganza to bring everyone together in the spirit. We're all one big family. **TCC**, FAMU, FSU . We are all one happy family," says Angelic Jeffers, event organizer.

Jeffers estimates about two hundred people showed up. **TCC's** celebration continues Tuesday(2-28). It's hosting a health fair starting at 10.

## Community College Times- February 24, 2012

### Funding roundup

TABITHA WHISSEMORE

Florida

Edison State College (ESC) received an estate gift of \$728,000 from an anonymous Fort Myers couple to support the college's nursing program. The late wife had always wanted to be a nurse, but never had the opportunity, according to an ESC press release.

**Tallahassee Community College (TCC)** will use a new \$551,995 grant to increase the local science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) workforce. The five-year National Science Foundation grant allows **TCC** to provide scholarships for students pursuing an education in STEM disciplines. The college also will provide academic and professional growth opportunities, such as workshops and internships with local businesses.

Georgia

The Technical College System of Georgia will help low-income students pay GED test fees after receiving a \$50,000 donation from AT&T. Testing scholarships will be created, allowing nearly 800 qualified people to receive a \$65 voucher to use toward the cost of the test.

Maryland

Harford Community College (HCC) plans to redesign developmental math courses with the help of a \$46,690 Developmental Math Course Redesign Grant from the Maryland Higher Education Commission. The college has partnered with Complete College America on the project. HCC is one of 16 Maryland community colleges to receive this grant.

New Jersey

Burlington County College received a \$180,000 grant from the Rowan Corp. for five initiatives that will all lead to awareness of careers in science, math and technology. The initiatives include plasma welding training, an early placement testing program in high schools and a career development program.

Texas

Tarrant County College will increase worker skills in the manufacturing industry using a \$458,025 grant from the Texas Workforce Commission. The college will work with a manufacturing consortium on the project that will create at least 47 new jobs and train 307 incumbent employees. The college also will receive \$45,000 worth of new equipment.

## Universities and colleges are bracing for more funding cuts...

*continued*

"Education is similar to motherhood and apple pie," he said. "Everybody thinks education is a wonderful thing."

Brown, based in Winter Park, noted that the most recent Florida poll, taken Jan. 10, found that voters disapproved of the state budget 51-36 percent. Scott recognizes that voters want more money for their children's schools, he said.

The two chambers have been much more in sync when it comes to funding the system overseeing the state's 28 colleges and community colleges. While the governor treated it much like the State University System, recommending no cuts in funding and no increase in tuition, the House budget calls for an 8 percent cut, the Senate a 3 percent cut and both included corresponding flexibility to boost tuition.

"My preference is to not increase tuition for our students," TCC President Jim Murdaugh said. "But the dilemma we have is, if we are cut we really don't have a choice unless we cut internally. You reach a point where continued cuts begin to erode the quality of what you do."

For the university system, the Senate budget is also influenced by \$29 million being devoted to a new, 12th university: Florida Polytechnic. A branch campus of the University of South Florida, it has been pushed by Sen. JD Alexander, R-Lake Wales and chair of the Senate's Budget Committee. Gov. Scott said Thursday he wasn't sure if this is the right time for the state to invest precious dollars on a new university.

"I'm being very cautious about trying to add liabilities to the state, so can we afford a 12th university?" Scott said. "I want to make sure that we can afford that."

Education leaders in the House have said that the cuts to public universities they are proposing will be offset by up to 15 percent increases in in-state tuition and 8 percent increases for out-of-state and graduate students. Barron countered that FSU is not likely to up tuition as much as allowed for out-of-state and graduate students, because it needs to stay competitive with its rates.

Meanwhile, Lynn and Rep. Bill Proctor, a Republican who chairs the House Education Committee, have been shepherding separate legislation that would establish pre-eminent universities in Florida, giving FSU and University of Florida (the only two that qualify if adopted

as written) the ability to raise tuition well beyond 15 percent in order to produce the resources necessary to compete for the nation's top faculty and scientists (Please see accompanying story).

Proctor said he isn't surprised that the House and Senate have taken drastically different approaches to funding Florida's public universities.

"They just have to be reconciled in conference," Proctor said of the budget negotiations that will take place the next 10 days. "I've been told there's a sizable span between the two, but that doesn't surprise me."

## UCF, FAU could be big losers in budget cuts

Kathleen Haughney

TALLAHASSEE – The state’s university system is set to take a budgetary beating in the next two weeks, with Florida Atlantic University and University of Central Florida as two of the biggest losers.

The only question: How big will the cut be?

The House and Senate Tuesday began negotiating the differences in their roughly \$70 billion budget plans. Spending for education, transportation, courts and health care is all a part of the equation.

The Senate wanted to cut about \$400 million in state funds for higher education, with the House looking at about \$200 million. Most of the cuts would come from the 11 state universities.

For a while Tuesday, that threatened to derail budget negotiations, with the Senate insisting cuts should not come from dollars that pay for recurring costs like academic programs.

“That’s a deal killer for us” Senate budget chief JD Alexander, R-Lake Wales, said. “It’s hard enough to ask for some of the excess cash back.”

There are also big differences in tuition: the House budget would increase tuition by 8 percent and allow universities to add on a 7-percent increase. The Senate, heeding Gov. Rick Scott’s demand that tuition be held steady, leaves a decision on increases up to each university, which has the power to raise tuition up to 15 percent.

By Tuesday afternoon, both sides had agreed not to cut money for ongoing programs and had settled on a total cut of \$289.3 million. But the details are still yet to be worked out -- leaving many university officials waiting anxiously to see exactly how much money their universities will lose.

UCF and FAU are poised to take the biggest hits.

The original House proposal would have boosted UCF’s funding by 3.3 percent over last year, to roughly \$459 million. But the Senate’s budget called for an 8.4-percent cut, to \$407 million.

Grant Heston, a spokesman for UCF, said that the university would wait to see a final number before determining what specific cuts are needed.

“At this point, university budgets have not been published,” Heston said. “Until then, it is too early to speculate about specific impacts to UCF.”

FAU would be cut by 2.4 percent, to \$233 million, by the House budget – and by more than 10 percent, to \$213.4 million, by the Senate.

FAU has not begun a budget exercise either, but officials have warned that cuts the size of the Senate’s could lead to reduction in programs and other offerings.

FAU President Mary Jane Saunders released an op-ed piece calling the cuts to the university system “crippling,” especially the Senate’s proposal.

“Should the Senate bill prevail, here’s the worst-case scenario: the complete elimination of some degree programs, the closing of some campuses, cancellation of the summer semester and more employee layoffs, all against the backdrop of ongoing tuition increases,” she wrote.

Alexander said that it’s possible cuts to both universities would be mitigated in negotiations but offered no specifics.

In the meantime, student leaders from Florida State, Florida A&M and [Tallahassee Community College](#) announced that they would rally in Tallahassee later this week to protest the cuts and tuition increases.

Other major universities received cuts as well. The University of Florida would be cut 1.7 percent, to \$563.9 million, by the House, and by 7.3 percent, to \$533.9, by the Senate. Florida State would see a boost of more than 2-percent, to \$445.9 million, in the House plan but a 5.9-percent cut, to \$407 million, in the Senate.

## TCC Healthcare Students Find Greatest Gift in Haiti

Alice Maxwell

I realized my problems back home were so minute that they might as well not even exist," reacted Melton Barkley, who accompanied Tallahassee Community College pharmacy technician and nursing program faculty and students on a trip to Haiti last December. In this extremely impoverished but amazingly inspiring country, the Tallahassee Haiti Medical Team volunteers found new depth of understanding of the gift of giving during the holiday season.

Founded by Dr. Woodrow Smith, the Tallahassee Haiti Medical Team includes volunteer doctors, nurses, emergency medical technicians, medical students, nursing students, pharmacy technician students and lay persons, all from Tallahassee and the surrounding areas. The team's mission is to bring needed medical supplies and services to a clinic located in the city of Dumay, but the ultimate goal is to build the Dumay Regional Medical Center and provide a training site for future medical professionals.

Shortly after Haiti's tragic earthquake in January 2010, the Tallahassee Haiti Medical Team conducted a fundraising drive to collect medical supplies. Since then, several trips have been made by Tallahassee area residents compelled to help. Some of the volunteers on the December trip had made the journey to Haiti before; all of them said they hope to return. Calvin Gilbert, TCC Pharmacy Tech faculty member, said he plans to return in June and looks forward to helping more people in need. According to Holly Loand, pharmacy technician coordinator, this is a "truly wonderful and life-changing experience."

"While in Haiti, our students' primary responsibility was to run the onsite pharmacy," said Loand, who added that her students served as the "advance team" and arrived a day before the rest of the medical team to set up the pharmacy and records areas.

To reduce patient wait time and increase the number of patients served, the students were also entrusted with seeing patients with minor illnesses. "The problems the patients had were things that required over-the-counter medications to treat, but some still needed a professional look," said Melton Barkley. He continued, "This experience was priceless."

For more information or to join one of the team's upcoming trips, please contact HollyLoand at [loandh@tcc.edu](mailto:loandh@tcc.edu), or visit [myhaititeam.org](http://myhaititeam.org).

## Celebrating a Lifetime of Community College

By Karen Myers

Dr. Ed Jackson stood at the window of his office in the newly renovated Buescher Hall at East Central College, staring into the skyline. He isn't one to brag about his accomplishments, but it was under his guidance as president of the college that brought the project into fruition.

"Something had to be done," Jackson said. "There was a total transformation of the (former administration) building. I'm really proud of the facility."

After 46 years of working in community colleges, Dr. Jackson will retire June 30.

To honor his achievements, Dr. Jackson, 68, will receive the Michael Bennett lifetime achievement award. The award is presented to retiring college administrators for exemplary dedication to Phi Theta Kappa, the scholastic honor society for two-year colleges.

Jackson will be honored during the Phi Theta Kappa annual convention April 12-14 at the Gaylord Opryland resort and convention center in Nashville, Tenn.

The award will be presented before an audience of nearly 3,500 students, chapter advisers, and college presidents Friday, April 13, with guest speaker Malcolm Gladwell, author of "The Tipping Point and Outliers."

### Background

Jackson, the son of Jeanne and Edward D. Jackson Sr., grew up in Florida. He moved around a lot because of his father's job at an oil company.

He attended junior high and high school in Tampa, Fla., which is where he considers home.

In high school, Jackson was very involved with the school newspaper, The Chiefton. After high school he attended the University of Florida in Gainesville to start a career in journalism.

"I didn't really like journalism that much," Jackson said. "I didn't like the deadlines. You're always under a deadline and under pressure."

It was his American national government teacher, Ernie Bartley, who inspired him to go into political science.

"He was so good. He was like a performer," Jackson said, "a good performer."

Jackson earned his bachelor's degree in political science, then earned his master's degree from the University of Florida.

There was a job opportunity teaching political science at Lake-Sumter Community College in Leesburg Fla., about 65 miles from Tampa.

Jackson taught political science for 10 years and served three years as chair of the division of social science. He went on to earn a Ph.D. from Florida State University.

During that time, in 1973, Jackson married his wife Dana (pronounced Dan-a). They have three daughters, Amanda, Autumn and Devon.

He earned his Ph.D. in 1974. Jackson left Lake-Sumter in 1976 and accepted a position of dean of instruction/chief academic officer at [Tallahassee Community College](#).

"It seemed like a natural fit."

Jackson said he felt like his next step would be to be a college president. He accepted a job as president of South Georgia College, a small, public community college in 1983 and spent the next 22 years there.

### South Georgia

One unique aspect of his job was that Jackson and his family lived at a president's home on campus.

"Everything was taken care of," he said, noting that lawn care, utilities and any problems were taken care of. However, the children had no neighbors and there was a lack of privacy.

"We were right in the center of campus. Everyone knew where I was 24 hours a day. I could look out my office window and see my house," he said. "We lived in a fishbowl!"

Jackson said the experience was unique and added that he wouldn't change the experience.

Ready for a change, the Jacksons started looking for an opportunity.

"The opportunity to come (to Franklin County) seemed like a great one," he said. "I have really enjoyed it here. This area is an undiscovered jewel. When people think of St. Louis, they don't realize how pretty this area is."

In 2005, Jackson became the president of East Central College.

"We wanted to live in a suburban place that was close to a big city and an airport," In Douglas, Ga., he was 2 1/2 hours from any major metropolitan area and four hours from an airport. His daughters live in Atlanta, Ga., Newport, R.I., and Galway, Ireland.

## Celebrating a Lifetime of Community College...

*continued*

Jim Perry, president of the East Central College board of trustees, said he knew Jackson was a perfect fit as president of the college.

"Ed Jackson is one of the best administrators I have ever been associated with. I could tell he was the candidate we wanted the first time I talked to him on the phone during the presidential search," Perry said.

"His visit and interview on campus confirmed that impression. He has it all — knowledge, experience, character, and personality. Ed has been exactly the right president for East Central College at this time in the college's history. He will be missed," Perry added.

Jackson planned to retire last year, but said he wanted to see the completion of the renovated George H. Buescher Hall, which was completed for the fall 2011 semester.

ECC

During his time at East Central College, Jackson guided the college through many changes.

One change, which Jackson credited as a "team effort," was helping construct a second way in and out of the ECC-Union campus. Audrey Lane was opened to provide the second entrance and exit. Highway 50 also has been widened.

"(Widening Highway 50), along with Audrey Lane, has eliminated almost all of our traffic problems," Jackson said.

Additionally, when Jackson started his presidency at the college, the campus still had well water.

For safety and convenience reasons, Jackson said he is proud that the campus is now on city water.

Getting the GED and adult literacy programs into the training center is another accomplishment Jackson is proud of. Before, the programs were housed in temporary buildings.

"That was an awful way to provide those kinds of services," he said.

The space in the training center, which was used for storage, was renovated for the programs. The new Health and Sciences building completed in 2009, also was done on Jackson's watch.

"We have a great nursing program and other health-related programs," Jackson said. "Our science labs were just not acceptable."

Proposition RN, a \$15.8 million bond issue, was used to build the 52,000-square-foot building.

Most recently, the George H. Buescher Hall was completed. It houses the library, learning center, student services center, classrooms, faculty offices, student lounge areas and administrative offices.

"The library was on three different levels, it was not accessible to people with disabilities — there was limited use of the space,"

Additionally, the heating and air-conditioning system was 40 years old and the building was riddled with asbestos. Solely removing the asbestos cost nearly \$1 million.

There also is a new parking lot and driveway, that completes the loop to the campus.

"We've really improved access to the campus," Jackson said.

Dr. Jon Bauer, ECC's vice president of finance and administration said it has been a pleasure to work with Jackson the past several years.

"Working with Dr. Jackson is a privilege. He has been such an important influence. First, he's so knowledgeable. His long experience and expertise have been invaluable to the institution. One can look at the progress at East Central since 2005 and see the results of his leadership," Bauer said.

"Second, he challenges you to do more or be better. On many occasions I've presented information to him and thought that I was well prepared. He always seems to ask the question that makes me realize there is yet more work to do. Finally, he's fun to be around. Whether the topic is restaurants, movies, politics, or something else altogether, he's a great raconteur. But beyond that, he's a great listener and that's because he's genuinely interested in others," Bauer added.

Future

Jackson said after retirement, he will spend some time decompressing. He plans to continue living in Washington with his wife, who will continue working as a librarian in the R-II school district.

Jackson also sees himself traveling more and visiting his daughters, adding that he would love to travel to Scotland and Barcelona.

## Record breaking attendance at the Girl Scouts' 20th Run for Cookies

By Holly Jones

More than 800 runners, walkers, and cookie lovers crossed the finish line in the Girl Scout Council of the Florida Panhandle's (GSCFP) 20th Annual Run for the Cookies 5K and One-mile Run/Walk, setting a record for the number of participants. Held each year at [Tallahassee Community College](#), the Gulf Winds Grand Prix event benefits GSCFP's Travel Scholarship Program.

"Support from the community continues to be unparalleled for Run for the Cookies," said Raslean M. Allen, CEO of GSCFP. "This year was no exception with such a great outpouring of participants for this event which assists our girls in experiencing travel opportunities that may not otherwise be possible financially."

This year, 15 girls from GSCFP will travel to Washington D.C. to be a part of Rock the Mall, a 100th Anniversary Celebration; and 2 girls will travel to Chicago, IL in July for the World Girls' Forum.

"We were delighted by the community support for the 'Run for the Cookies' this year," said Dr. Jeanne O'Kon, of the Gulf Winds Track Club. "A total of 858 people registered, and they happily walked away with Girl Scout Cookies, door prizes, and big smiles!"

Keeping with tradition, the Run for the Cookies heralds the arrival of Girl Scout Cookies to the Florida Panhandle. Cookies officially arrived in the Panhandle area Saturday, Feb. 25, and customers will see Girl Scouts at cookie booths beginning March 3.

On March 12, Girl Scouts of the USA is celebrating 100 years of Girl Scouting with the Year of the Girl. Girl Scouts of the Florida Panhandle invites girls from kindergarten to 12th grade, to join the adventure and empower themselves through fun activities designed to build courage, confidence and character, to make the world a better place. Currently, the council serves 5,439 girls and 2,220 volunteers across 19 counties of the Florida Panhandle.

To volunteer or join Girl Scouts, contact the local council office at 1-888-271-8778 or visit [www.gscfp.org](http://www.gscfp.org). Girl Scouts of the Florida Panhandle is a United Way Agency.



## Students rally for higher education at state Capitol

Dave Heller

Tallahassee, Fla. -- College students angry about constantly rising tuition and budget cuts for higher education vented their frustration at the state Capitol on Thursday.

Students from Florida State, FAMU and [Tallahassee Community College](#) marched to the Capitol chanting, "When education is under attack, what do we do? Stand up fight back."

The rally was part of the National Day of Action for Education Rights, which mobilized students around the country on behalf of education.

The students say they want to tell state lawmakers and Gov. Rick Scott that now is not the time to cut education as the economy continues to struggle and unemployment remains high.

Michael Sampson says it feels like students are under attack.

"This is a travesty. Hard economic times and high unemployment rate is not a good time to cut education. It's not a good time to be cutting our investment in our future."

High school senior Nicole Smith joined the rally because she's concerned about the future of the Bright Futures program. It has been cut in recent years and the Legislature has raised the requirements to earn a scholarship.

"We want to be able to be as successful as the lawmakers are and it's important for us to have an education. I'm sure they would realize that as well and there are a lot of challenges for us," said Smith.

The House and Senate have negotiated a compromise that would raise tuition five percent at state universities next year. However, the schools have the authority to raise overall tuition rates up to 15 percent.

## TCC Signs Lease with Centennial Bank, Expands Services in Wakulla

TCC Release

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. (March 1, 2012) -

**Tallahassee Community College** will soon expand its services in Wakulla County due in large part to a lease agreement with Centennial Bank.

**TCC** assumes approximately 10,000 square feet of the existing bank structure that currently houses Centennial Bank's Crawfordville branch.

**TCC's** first Wakulla County-based service center opened in January 2006. Through programs such as the Ecotourism Institute and the Green Guide Certification Program, the facility has served hundreds of residents in Wakulla County and the neighboring coastal region. With growth and a need for expansion of services, however, came the need for additional space – the current facility is 3,835 square feet.

"We are excited about the opportunities that lie ahead for the residents of Wakulla County," said **TCC** President Jim Murdaugh. "The decision made by the Board and Centennial Bank gives the College many avenues to explore as we seek to expand our education offerings in Wakulla County and the surrounding areas."

The new **TCC** Wakulla Center will expand the College's workforce offerings to help train more citizen for in-demand jobs. It will also offer a limited number of basic "for credit" classes in order to help Wakulla County residents begin their education path with **TCC**. The **TCC** Wakulla Center will provide access to a full array of student services, including admissions, advising, financial aid and testing, as well as services to the College's Learning Commons, which may be facilitated online or by appointment.

**TCC** also anticipates expanding its environmental institute classes at the Center.

"We are excited about our partnership with **Tallahassee Community College**," said Tracy French, Centennial Bank Regional President. "Centennial Bank is a strong supporter of education, and we value the opportunities that education offers."

"We are thrilled to be a part of this win-win joint venture for our community and are looking forward to the first classes being offered."

The five-year agreement ends January 31, 2017, at which time both sides can choose to renew the lease.

The new **TCC** Wakulla Center, located at 2932 Crawfordville Highway, is scheduled for a late 2012 opening, possibly in time for the fall semester. Until the new facility is open, **TCC** will continue to offer a number of workforce programs in ecotourism, allied health and manufacturing at the existing Wakulla Center.

## TCC signs lease with Centennial Bank

TCC Wakulla will occupy the newer part of the Centennial Bank building, Wakulla County," said TCC President Jim Murdaugh. "The decision made by the Board and Centennial Bank gives the college many avenues to explore as we seek to expand our education offerings in Wakulla County and the surrounding areas." The new TCC Wakulla Center will expand the college's workforce offerings to help train more citizen for

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Eco-tourism is a regional growth sector, and **TCC's** expansion in this area will have a significant impact on the region.

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The new **TCC** Wakulla Center, located at 2932 Crawfordville Highway, is scheduled for a late 2012 opening, possibly in time for the fall semester. Until the new facility is open, **TCC** will continue to offer a number of workforce programs in ecotourism, allied health and manufacturing at the existing Wakulla Center.

## Bolstering Tallahassee's Healthcare Workforce with Innovative Programs

Capital Regional Medical Center and **Tallahassee Community College** announce the launch of a new training program for specialized healthcare positions. Together, the organizations are offering a curriculum that will train students to be monitor technicians, a highly sought after role in hospitals, medical clinics and doctors' offices. The program is the first of its kind in the Tallahassee area.

The program is designed to fit within a working professional's schedule with evening classes, offered at **TCC's** Ghazvini Center for Healthcare Education. After completing 30 hours in the coursework, including a rotation at Capital Regional, students will graduate with a certificate and be qualified to work as a monitor technician in a healthcare setting. Capital Regional will be heavily recruiting new employees from graduates of the program.

## John Riley Center/Museum awarded \$15K grant

Jessica Green

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. - The John G Riley Center and Museum was recently awarded a major grant of \$15,000 from the Florida Humanities Council for a themed lecture series titled, "A Route in Search of Roots: The Power of a Greater Vision."

The museum plans to launch the free lecture series in conjunction with the annual May 20th Emancipation Proclamation Day of Observance.

Five historians will participate in the lectures to help the public develop a comprehensive understanding of how Africans migrated into the Americas and significantly contributed to the foundation of Florida's history from the first and second Spanish periods through the British Occupation of Florida and beyond.

Speakers include the following:

- Dr. Anthony Dixon, Professor/Historian/Archivist of the Riley Museum Archives at [Tallahassee Community College](#)
- Dr. David Jackson, chair of the Florida A&M University History & Political Science department
- Dr. Titus Brown, history professor at Florida A&M University
- Dr. Tameka Hobbs, professor of history at Florida Memorial University
- Jarvis Rosier, sergeant major (Retired) and lead coordinator of the Florida United States Colored Troops (USCT) 2ND Infantry Regiment Reenactment Unit
- Dr. Will Guzman, director of the Office of Black Diaspora Culture at Florida A&M

A historical brochure featuring timelines, summary of topic areas and a resource guide of related readings will be distributed during these lecture series. In addition, seven traveling exhibit banner stands, which illustrate each historic period, will be displayed at each lecture site. The series of lectures will span from March 2012 to August of 2013 in targeted cities throughout the state of Florida.

Florida has a unique relationship and history with African American descendants, unlike any other state. Since inception it has been a safe haven for African descendants who first fought against slavery, then

against oppression and later for their civil rights. The historians will use their research and publications to present on how a culturally diverse group of people – speaking different languages in a foreign land, forged a path that is a living testament to their resilience and went on to make remarkable contributions to Florida's development from 1513 to 2013. The earliest documented evidence of Blacks in Florida dates back to 1513 when the Spanish exploration and settlement of Hispaniola took place.

The FHC provides financial support for the planning and implementation of large-scale humanities projects that occur over a timeframe of up to 18 months. Special consideration for major grants is given to projects that address FHCs "Viva Florida 500" initiative commemorating Ponce De Leon's 1513 arrival in Florida.

For more information about the upcoming project or the organization contact a staff member at 850-681-7881 or by email at [imorgan@rileymuseum.org](mailto:imorgan@rileymuseum.org).

## Paul Flemming: The turkey still thrives, but here it's not the main dish

Paul Flemming

What's in it for us?

The "it" is the 2012-13 state budget.

The "us" is residents of Tallahassee.

Lawmakers today will conclude the session and, sometime after 4:22 p.m., pass a \$70 billion spending plan for the state.

Turkeys don't mean much here in the capital city when our diet relies so much on red meat. Turkeys are the member projects for spending back home. These always earn the headlines and the outrage — a half-million dollars for a gallery here, a million dollars for a museum there and, infrequently, a criminal indictment or Judicial Qualifications Commission charge when the efforts get too brazen or too retroactively unpopular.

A turkey project brought home by our legislative delegation is tiny potatoes against all else that matters so much. But here you go:

In this year's budget there's a \$300,000 cultural grant for the African American Network heritage trail.

Lawmakers will approve \$250,000 for an archeological master plan for Wallwood Plantation.

There's \$3.85 million for an Earth Ocean Atmospheric Sciences Building at Florida State University. FSU also gets two separate appropriations — \$350,000 and another \$588,639 — for its risk-management center.

**Tallahassee Community College** landed \$4.5 million for a new Wakulla Environmental Institute.

That spending is what is in the big state budget that's in some way different from or more than what could be expected. But that's the fringe. To focus on those is to take your eye off the fiscal ball.

Likewise with turkey projects elsewhere.

The Firehouse Cultural Center in LaBelle, within the district of House budget chief Denise Grimsley, gets \$25,000. The Lake Wales Arts Council, home of Senate budget chief JD Alexander, gets \$50,000. The Hotel Ponce de Leon Solarium at Flagler College — where departing House Education Chairman Bill Proctor is chancellor — has a \$350,000 budget line.

Of course, there's the \$12 million to fast-track the University of South Florida's Lakeland campus into the state's 12th public university, a priority of Alexander's.

James Call at WFSU-FM got Alexander to talk about turkeys, and the departing Republican senator from Lake Wales said it's a legislator's job to work for hometown projects.

"I think it is legitimate that they advocate for that kind of thing," Alexander told Call.

Alexander may reign supreme over the state budget while it's working through the Legislature. But he also recognizes he doesn't have the final say.

Gov. Rick Scott has the line-item veto on the budget. Last year, his first as governor, Scott showed an affinity for carving turkey. He red-lined a record \$615 million. There's plenty for him to cut in next year's budget, too, including those coming to Tallahassee. Few of those listed above are likely to survive.

Voters and residents in Tallahassee certainly delight when this budgetary lagniappe falls in our laps, but it's hard to get excited about a couple hundred thousand dollars or even a couple million when there's so much at stake at the heart of our economy in this company town.

There's a \$1.4 billion annual payroll for state workers who live in Leon, Gadsden and Wakulla counties. For the sixth straight session, there is no general pay raise for those employees, and there will be fewer slots for them, now numbering about 31,000.

FSU got a \$65 million haircut in state funding.

Those are not turkeys. That's bread and butter. More to the point these days, that's bread and water on a subsistence diet.

— Paul Flemming is the policy and politics editor for the Tallahassee Democrat and [floridacapitalnews.com](http://floridacapitalnews.com). Contact him at [pflemming@tallahassee.com](mailto:pflemming@tallahassee.com), 850-671-6550 or follow him on Twitter at [@PaulFlemming](https://twitter.com/PaulFlemming).

## Probationers could get GED instead of doing community service

QUINCY, Fla. - Local probationers may soon have the choice of obtaining their GED instead of doing community service.

[Tallahassee Community College](#) along with Gadsden County Judge Kathy Garner will host a press conference Monday at the Quincy House, located at 216 North Adams Street in Quincy, Florida.

It's set to start at 10:30 a.m.

We're told the press conference will address the "Pathways to Success" initiative by Judge Garner to give probationers the opportunity to get their GED.

The presser will include remarks by Judge Garner as well as [TCC](#) President Jim Murdaugh and [TCC](#) Adult Education Coordinator Harriett Abrams.

## Blood-alcohol tests under fire in DUI cases

Defense attorneys are increasingly questioning blood-alcohol tests that have the potential to derail convictions in DUI cases.

**Arelis R. Hernández**

Tahirih Martin has an obvious limp. Her hip was cracked and her foot shattered when she was ejected from her taxicab in a collision with an alleged drunken driver last year on Goldenrod Road.

Her invisible injuries — Martin suffered some brain trauma as a result of the crash — have been even more debilitating.

Yet more than a year after the crash, Martin, a 55-year-old Orlando resident, has yet to face the woman she says robbed her of her independence.

And questions about the reliability of blood-alcohol tests could stand in the way of a conviction.

Veteran defense attorney Stuart Hyman has made it his mission to raise doubts about the state's process for collecting, storing and transporting blood samples in DUI cases.

Increasingly, criminal-defense lawyers are finding success questioning blood-alcohol-test results by attacking the collection methods and gaining favorable rulings, he said.

"Before everyone rushes to judgment, we want to make sure junk science isn't used," said Hyman, who is representing the defendant in this case, Courtney Mader. "History is replete with situations where it was found out the results of such tests were unusable."

Defense attorneys have brought in lab-quality experts and chemists to testify for the defense in order to raise distrust in the Florida Department of Law Enforcement's instruments, techniques and rules about blood drawing.

It's not a new challenge. But in 2000, the Florida Supreme Court ruled in favor of a suspected drunken driver that alleged FDLE's blood-testing rules were inadequate. The agency later revised its procedures to be more specific.

'Prisoner in my own body'

Already, Martin's case has been slowed by Hyman's challenges. The trial, which was scheduled to begin last month, is now on hold.

According to an Orlando police report, 29-year-old Mader was accused of driving drunk in the Feb. 20, 2011, crash that nearly severed her own foot and put Martin in the hospital for close to six months.

Two officers said they smelled alcohol on Mader, and a blood test was taken five hours after the crash that put her blood-alcohol level above the .08 legal limit at .145, the arrest report said.

Experts can use methods to estimate the accused driver's blood-alcohol content at the time of the crash by factoring how quickly the alcohol may have been metabolized, said Sharon Traxler, who trains state prosecutors at [Tallahassee Community College](#).

University of Florida toxicologist Dr. Bruce Goldberger, who testifies often as an expert witness, defended Florida's standards for testing BAC.

"We shouldn't be changing rules or laws to react to defense challenges," he said.

Goldberger said a blood test is "the most accurate and precise test out there" and stands up well to legal challenges. "Most challenges slow the process but don't result in exclusion of the results in a hearing or a trial."

Emboldened by the success they've found in quashing breath-test results, defense attorneys may be looking to employ the challenges in more cases, said longtime prosecutor Bob Dekle of the University of Florida School of Law.

"A defense attorney is going to attack the evidence even if it came down from Mount Sinai on two tablets written by the hand of God," Dekle said. "That is what they do."

But if there is a trend of increasing success for defense attorneys, he said it's likely because DUI prosecutors are among the least-experienced in the State Attorney's Office.

"They quite frequently confront the big guns: the most experienced, highly prestigious defense attorneys," he said.

Martin, who said she can no longer work and had to end her studies — she was hoping to become an Episcopal minister — said that whether the blood-alcohol tests are accurate doesn't change what she's endured.

"I don't think [Mader] has a clue of what she did to me. She completely changed my life," Martin said. "I feel like a prisoner in my own body. I can't drive, I can't think ... I can't do anything."

[arehernandez@tribune.com](mailto:arehernandez@tribune.com) or 407-420-5471



## TCC celebrates Women's History Month March 14

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. – March is Women's History Month and to celebrate the occasion **Tallahassee Community College** will recognize ten women from the community, as well as five of the College's outstanding female students, during its annual Women's History Month Celebration on Wednesday, March 14.

The event will begin at 11:45 a.m. in Room 105 of the College's Center for Workforce Development.

This year's national Women's History Month theme is "Women's Education – Women's Empowerment."

TCC's 2012 Women's History Month community honorees are:

- Vicki Cutcliffe – Chief of Law Enforcement for the Department of Business and Professional Regulation
- Victoria Droze – ESE teacher at Gretchen Everhart School, Workshop for Adult Vocational Enrichment
- Robin Gibson – Director of Sports Medicine, FSU Athletics; sports trainer
- Patricia Hardman – CFO of Dyslexia Research Institute, Woodland Hall Academy; Disability Issues
- Janet Kistner – Department head of FSU's Psychology Department
- Shannon O'Bryan – Teacher and Director of Theater Arts at Chiles High School
- Darice Richard – Clinical pharmacist at Magellan Health Services
- Beverly Spencer – Former Florida legislator and FSU Vice President for University Relations
- Mary Jane Tappen – Deputy Chancellor for Curriculum, Instruction and Student Service, Florida DOE
- Kelly Walker – Sergeant, Leon County Sheriff's Office, K-9 Search and Rescue

TCC students being honored during Women's History Month are:

- Ligny Aguilar
- Taylor Fabrega
- Candice Grause

•Jaclyn LaPointe

•Stevey Roberts

Dr. Sandra Rackley, retired Dean of Undergraduate Studies at Florida State University, will be the guest speaker for the event.

Wednesday's event is open to the public and admission is free.

For more information on TCC's Women's History Month Celebration, contact Dr. Jeanne O'Kon by phone, 850-201-8146, or email [okonj@tcc.fl.edu](mailto:okonj@tcc.fl.edu).

## Tour highlights the need for renovations at schools

### Half-penny tax could fix aging AC and kitchen woes

Lisa Fingerroot

Members of the Greater Tallahassee Chamber of Commerce who toured Leon County schools Tuesday appeared convinced the district could use a 15-year extension of the half-cent sales tax scheduled to end in December.

After seeing some of the improvements made with the sales tax adopted in 2002, and many of the renovations and maintenance projects officials would like to complete in the next 15 years with an extension of the sales tax, the chamber members on the tour seemed ready to agree that an extension is the way to go.

From antiquated, inefficient air conditioning to schools without full kitchens — only stations to keep food prepared elsewhere warm — those on the tour saw some of the renovation projects a continuation of the sales tax would fix.

School Superintendent Jackie Pons asked the chamber to conduct an independent review of the spending plan school officials have created for the extension. The chamber did the same thing in 2002 when the current sales tax was endorsed by the chamber and approved by voters.

About 30 school-system representatives and members of the chamber toured six schools on Tuesday, traveling between each school in one of the new compressed natural gas buses that saves money on fuel costs and drastically reduces the district's carbon footprint, said Manny Joanos, a divisional director for the school system.

"Part of this is preaching to the choir," said Paul Byrd, assistant superintendent for support services and the man Pons has put in charge of overseeing the implementation of the sales tax. "Some wanted to see for themselves."

At the end of the tour, Byrd offered to take visitors to more locations if they didn't feel convinced of the need for a sales tax extension, but everyone declined his offer after the nearly six-hour bus ride around Tallahassee.

"We want kids to be able to walk into any school in Leon County and not be able to tell the difference in them," Byrd said, adding that the system has made great strides in the last several years toward all schools being comparable. "We still have a significant way to go."

Byrd took chamber members to Fairview Middle School, Sabal Palm Elementary School, the Gretchen Everhart School, Godby High School, Riley Elementary School and Ruediger Elementary School for a sample of the district's needs. The system has more than 6 million square feet in 50 facilities that must be maintained. Not all of those are schools, but are still buildings owned by the school system, Byrd said.

The tour began in the Fairview gym, which the school uses for every function from assemblies and band concerts to its 8th-grade graduation ceremony. The gym looks pretty much the way it did 40 years ago when it was built, Principal Scott Hansen said. There are no public bathrooms, no foyer for ticket sales or concessions, the locker rooms are antiquated and the air conditioning does not work well. Hansen's biggest problem, though, is the old floor that gets cold in the winter and causes people to slip and slide.

At Fairview, chamber members were shocked to find out the cafeteria there serves nearly 900 children a day with nothing but a warming kitchen. Seven other schools in Leon County do not have full-service kitchens because there was a time when officials thought cooking at a central location and only warming at each school was the most efficient method, Joanos said. They found the quality of food was greatly reduced, however, because some meals are being prepared as early as 4 a.m. to get them to another location in time for the beginning of lunch at 11 a.m. Some of the meals might be continuously warmed until the last lunch at 1 p.m.

In response to questioning from chamber members, Byrd said the school system fights a constant battle to keep up with health department food regulations because of the set up. The plan is to have a full-service kitchen in every school in the next five years.

The other schools that do not have a full-service kitchen are Buck Lake, Canopy Oaks, Desoto Trail, Hawks Rise, W.T. Moore and Springwood elementary schools, and Gretchen Everhart, where the warming kitchen doesn't even have an air conditioner.

## 2 building projects are key for FSU, TCC

PAUL FLEMMING

Florida State University and Tallahassee Community College both have money in the state budget for building projects that are key to the futures of both institutions.

There's \$4.5 million for a new Wakulla Environmental Institute at TCC. Florida State University has \$3.85 million for planning and engineering on what ultimately would be a \$68 million, 150,000-square-foot Earth Ocean Atmospheric Sciences building.

Lawmakers completed work on the state's budget Friday, but the building projects at FSU and TCC still have to survive the governor's veto pen.

"Both of those projects not only would be a great addition to the academic programs of both institutions, but also a shot in the arm to the economy of the area," said Sen. Bill Montford, a Democrat from Tallahassee.

Jim Murdaugh, TCC's president, said his college's project is a part of "the vision that our board of trustees has of creating an environmental-science focus for what we're going to do in Wakulla."

That, Murdaugh said, includes offering academic paths for science, technology, engineering and mathematics degrees — so-called STEM programs favored as job-creators by Gov. Rick Scott — in Leon, Wakulla and Gadsden counties.

TCC owns property in Wakulla County now, Murdaugh said, but is also considering other locations for the building that he said would be a learning laboratory for environmental sciences. The ultimate site would take advantage of Wakulla's vast tracts of protected federal land.

"This facility will draw students from around the state of Florida," Murdaugh said. The plan envisions "Wakulla as a destination for students. It's the fifth-hottest biodiversity area in the country."

The \$3.85 million FSU appropriation in the 2012-13 budget is the first of three required for the project. In 2010, three then-separate departments of Geological Sciences, Oceanography and Meteorology were merged into one; Earth, Ocean and Atmospheric Science.

This project would bring the new single department under one roof.

But the project represents more than that.

"We think it's transformational," said Mark Bertolami, director of Facilities Planning at FSU.

First, it's important for the merged departments to be together. It also offers an opportunity to design a building that could serve as an educational and technological model for other hard-science programs as disciplines and the world change. Finally, it could be the starting point to manage the logistics of multiple moving parts involving 1.2 million square feet of space in 40- and 50-year-old buildings on the north side of campus that are in need of \$90 million worth of renovation work.

Bertolami said it's possible the future building could be located near Woodward Avenue and Tennessee Street. The Gunter Building near the intersection is owned by the state's Department of Environmental Protection and houses the Florida Geological Survey. A possible swap of property between FSU and the state could facilitate a larger plan in the area.

"This project has a lot of spinoff potential," Bertolami said about learning to design a building with highly interactive labs, classrooms and offices in a way that complements how teaching will be done in 15 years.

In a best-case scenario, the building could begin construction in 2014 and have a ribbon cutting in 2016.

"This is the first new project the university will undertake" in President Eric Barron's tenure.

Barron, like TCC's Murdaugh, knows Gov. Rick Scott will be taking a hard look at every line item in the \$70 billion budget.

"My hope is that when the governor gets to this particular project, he will see it for what it is," Murdaugh said. "I hope the governor has seen that we have shared his vision about STEM."

## Tour highlights the need for renovations at schools...

*continued*

As the day progressed, chamber members were told of many air-conditioning and heating units that had to be replaced in schools all over the county because of age and also roofs that needed to be replaced because of age. One roof at Sabal Palm is 25 years old.

Godby High School is due for new windows because it still has its original windows in metal frames from 1969 and the metal is rusting, causing large holes.

Byrd told chamber members about several financial hits the district has taken in the last few years and explained that without an extension of the sales tax, the school system will be able only to maintain safety levels and do what is legally mandated.

Pons dropped by the tour of Everhart and asked chamber members to imagine first what the district would look like if the 2002 sales tax had not been approved, and then to imagine what the district would look like in 15 years if an extension is not approved, and also what it could look like if the extension is approved.

The current half-cent sales tax has consistently generated about \$18 million per year for the school system's capital projects like construction, maintenance, renovation and even the purchases of buses and technology. About 30 percent of those collected funds are generated by non-resident visitors, according to the chamber.

**Tallahassee Community College** President Jim Murdaugh is leading the group selected to participate in the chamber review and has divided the participants into teams focused on areas where the members have expertise. For example, the teams include renovation and maintenance, new construction, remodeling, transportation and technology.

A final report from the chamber is expected by the end of April.

## County declares Bill Wertman Day

TaMaryn Waters

Bill Wertman, a tireless advocate for those suffering from Alzheimer's Disease, said he never had a day dedicated to him before. He does now.

Wertman, executive director of the Alzheimer's Project in Tallahassee, was recognized by Leon County commissioners Tuesday for being named one of "10 Dedicated and Deserving Social Workers" by Social Work Today magazine. As a result of the national honor, the commission designated March 13 as "Bill Wertman Day."

"This is one of the most amazing honors I've ever received," Wertman said, holding his proclamation following the presentation.

"It's kind of a humbling experience because I tend to think that I focus entirely on the community and social work in general. To be recognized, it feels good and it kind of helps reinforce the fact that if you do the right things and work for that end, people will eventually see that and hopefully it brings recognition to the population we serve as well."

Wertman, 54, has been director of the Alzheimer's Project since 2006. According to the county resolution, Wertman is an adjunct faculty member at Florida State University and **Tallahassee Community College**, teaching in the social work department.

## Update: Counties gather for Rural Economic Development & Tourism Summit

Dave Hodges

10:47 A. M.

"We will be close to 200, which I am very pleased over," said David Gardner, executive director of the Gadsden County Chamber of Commerce and the summit chair. "Today for this session it's well over 100."

Of Florida's 67 counties, 32 are considered rural, which is defined as having population density of less than 100 people per square mile. Gardner said the value of the summit is in providing a forum for small communities to discuss their needs.

"There are very few opportunities for rural counties to attend summits and conferences that are focused on their issues," he added.

The event is organized by Opportunity Florida, an economic development organization made up of nine rural counties in Northwest Florida, in partnership with the North Florida Economic Development Partnership and Florida's Heartland Regional Economic Development Initiative.

Morning post

Representatives from rural communities across Florida are gathering in Gadsden County this week for the Rural Economic Development & Tourism Summit.

The event officially starts Thursday morning at the Florida Public Safety Institute, though there is a meeting this afternoon with the Department of Economic Opportunity talking about its five-year strategic plan.

Sessions on Thursday include opening remarks by Jim Murdaugh, president of [Tallahassee Community College](#), and state Sen. Bill Montford, D-Tallahassee, talking on the subject of "The Rural Environment in Florida."

Tom Beck, director of the DEO's Division of Community Development, will cover the various ways the department assists rural communities, and Al Latimer of Enterprise Florida will talk about strategies for ensuring small counties are ready for job growth.

Check back at [Tallahassee.com](#) for an update of this story and look for more coverage tomorrow in the Tallahassee Democrat.

## Spanish For Adults

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5 Crescent Way, Crawfordville

For registration information, contact TCC Wakulla Center at (850) 922-6290.



This ad ran in the Wakulla News on 2/23/12.

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Schedule a campus tour  
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**Schedule a pre-college advising session**  
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This ad will run in Chiles newsletter on 3/23; Also in Leon and Lincoln newsletters on 3/14



**UPCOMING EVENTS**

**College Goal Sunday**

February 12 • 2:00 p.m.  
Student Union Ballroom

**TCC Preview**

February 16 and April 19  
5:30-6:30 p.m.  
Contact Lourena Maxwell  
maxwelll@tcc.fl.edu

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The logo of Tallahassee Community College is a circular emblem. It features a yellow outer ring with the text "TALLAHASSEE COMMUNITY COLLEGE" at the top and "Founded 1966" at the bottom. Inside the ring is a white circle containing a large blue stylized "T" and "C" intertwined.

[www.GoToTCC.com](http://www.GoToTCC.com)



## Wakulla Ecotourism Institute

Explore the natural history of the Big Bend area and learn the basics of starting a nature-based business with TCC's ecotourism classes and guided field trips.



For the complete class schedule or more information, call (850) 922-6290 or visit [workforce.tcc.fl.edu/Wakulla](http://workforce.tcc.fl.edu/Wakulla)

### Classes

*\$20 each from 8-10:30 AM at the T.C.C. Wakulla Center*

**February 20**  
Ecotourism Business Basics

**February 28**  
North Florida Trees

**March 14**  
Weather and Tides

**March 19**  
Wakulla Landscape

**March 23**  
Florida Archaeology & Pre-History

### Field Trips

**February 25**  
St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge

**March 3**  
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# Tallahassee Community College in Gadsden County:

# 2011 Year-in-Review



## Helping Gadsden County students graduate and enroll in college

Tallahassee Community College established the success of Gadsden County students who graduate from high school and enroll in college. With the help of TCC, we engaged in a variety of ways to further this goal. From the Science Research Institute program that provided students with laboratory, college preparation, and financial aid, to TCC dual-enrollment classes at East Gadsden High School, TCC provided opportunities to assist with students and advanced course credits, and encourage enrollment. TCC also sought to provide more Gadsden County students with scholarships to help them achieve educational success.

### By the numbers:

- 99 – percentage of participants in RTS that were promoted to the next grade
- 95 – percentage of high school seniors in RTS that graduated, compared to 88 percent of seniors not enrolled in the program
- 85 – percentage of RTS students who enrolled in college or the armed forces after graduation
- 48 – Take Stock in Children (TSEC)/College Reach Out Program (CROP) participants in grades five through twelve selected to receive scholarships upon successful completion of high school
- 15 – students who took the CPT at The Quincy House



Scholarship recipients (L-R) Courtney Myers, Richard Smith, and Devin Clark receive TCC President Jim Mardis' congratulations.

- 15 – TSEC/CROP graduates enrolled at TCC with dual-enrollment scholarships
- 12 – high-achieving high school and college students who were employed by The Quincy House to tutor peers and younger students
- 12 – Challenge Scholarships provided to TSEC/CROP participants through the Gadsden-LEARN fund
- 1 – Gadsden County student selected as TCC "STEM Star" in 1011-12, receiving

scholarship through a National Science Foundation-funded program that supports academically talented, financially disadvantaged students who plan to study science, technology, engineering, or mathematics.

- 1 – \$500 TCC scholarship provided to students at a reception at the Florida Public Safety Institute to celebrate TCC's partnership with Gadsden County and introduce the College's president, Dr. Jim Mardis, to the community.

## Jamel David excels at The Quincy House assisting youth

Jamel David was very comfortable at The Quincy House, home of TCC's Gadsden County service center. That's probably because the 21-year-old has spent so much time there over the last six years, first as a young student being tutored, then as a tutor himself, and now as a part-time staff member.

David first visited the Quincy House in 2006, when he was a sophomore at East Gadsden High School. He was preparing to take the 10th grade Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test (FCAT), which served as the state graduation test, and had learned that the tutoring on FCAT reading and math skills was offered at The Quincy House. Roger Milton, manager of The Quincy House, pointed the students that any of them who passed both parts of the FCAT on the first attempt would be invited as a tutor during



the next school year. David succeeded and started tutoring 10<sup>th</sup> graders when he was in the 11<sup>th</sup> grade. On making the transition from student to tutor, David said, "Some kids were skeptical about being tutored by someone just a bit older than them, but I think I was able to make them comfortable. And it felt good to know that I was guiding them to do better academically."

Milton has a very definite purpose in hiring success stories like Jamel David as tutors. David, who is now a senior at Florida A&M University majoring in political science, is an ideal role model for the children he works with at Newark Street Elementary and Santa Middle schools. "We hire our former students as tutors because the younger ones relate better to them. They also serve as role models for the older students here benefited

from studying hard and staying on track to graduation. It makes our chances of keeping them in school greater."

The experience has clearly been important to Jamel David as well. In addition to tutoring, he also takes his turn at the front desk of The Quincy House and assists the full-time staff with office tasks. He hopes to return to Gadsden County as a social studies teacher, later earn a doctoral degree in educational leadership, and eventually become a member of the local school board.

Milton added, "It feels great to see students like Jamel come full circle to see them as a student and then as a tutor, and then to see them get more involved. We're successful here because of our people. It's easier when you know that the people who are doing this work are really part of it." ■ ■

## Strengthening the workforce

TCC's outreach program assists in employment-related activities, providing training and skills, identifying job opportunities, and providing information on career development. TCC also provides information through the Florida Public Safety Institute's dual-enrollment program. High school students participating in dual-enrollment courses in construction through the Gadsden Youth Field Project, a partnership

with WORKWORLD plus the City of Midway and Gadsden County Schools. Other programs include participation in all employment-related activities, such as job training, career counseling, and job placement. TCC also provides information through the Florida Public Safety Institute's dual-enrollment program. High school students participating in dual-enrollment courses in construction through the Gadsden Youth Field Project, a partnership

## Moving Gadsden County schools from good to great

TCC supports the Gadsden County School District's goal to move all students to "A" and "B" levels. A TCC faculty member provided weekly support to five high schools, working directly with teachers to incorporate science into the curriculum. Also, the College's TCC/CROP program provided nearly

200 students with college preparation courses, dual enrollment, and preparation for academic success, including dual-enrollment. TCC's participation in dual-enrollment courses in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics provided an "A" grade level in 2011. ■ ■

## Partnerships with the community

We're passionate that community is TCC's heartbeat. Working together with a variety of public and private institutions, the College looks to be a source of ideas, advice, the positive change – individuals that make the community thrive.

In 2011, our partnerships took many forms.

- The Take Stock in Children/College Reach Out Program teamed with Palmer Monroe Teen Center and the TCC Recruitment and Outreach Department to offer spring break and summer programs to Gadsden County students.
- The 21st Century Community Learning Center provided after-school, weekend, holiday and summer programs for more than 400 students at Stewart Street Elementary School, Santa Middle School, Carter-Ferraro Academy and Hardee Middle School. 75% of students served increased their reading and mathematics achievement levels and had decreased behavior issues, improved attendance and increased parent involvement. This reflects a successful partnership among TCC, Gadsden County Schools, Communities in Schools of Gadsden (CISGD), the Gadsden Arts Center and AmeriCorps.
- TCC collaborated with the Panhandle Area Educational Consortium (PAEC) Higher Education Program to provide classes to over 1000 ED

- students in English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) facility in Quincy. Test results reflected improved English language acquisition.
- The Quincy House partnered with CISGD to offer academic and enrichment services during spring and summer breaks for students from several local elementary and middle schools. One hundred percent of pre- and post-test surveys reflected satisfaction with the services, and each year the program has had maximum capacity participation.
- Dental program students from TCC provided more than 5,000 hours of dental treatment to inmates at the Gadsden Correctional Facility and nearly 2,000 hours to community members at the Gadsden Health Department. They also give dental health presentations that reached more than 150 children in Gadsden County schools.
- TCC student interns served in the medical records and pharmacy departments at the Gadsden Correctional Facility. ■ ■



## Improving Florida Education

TCC supports the Florida Department of Education's goal to move all students to "A" and "B" levels. A TCC faculty member provided weekly support to five high schools, working directly with teachers to incorporate science into the curriculum. Also, the College's TCC/CROP program provided nearly

200 students with college preparation courses, dual enrollment, and preparation for academic success, including dual-enrollment. TCC's participation in dual-enrollment courses in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics provided an "A" grade level in 2011. ■ ■

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