

TALLAHASSEE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

In the News



November 14, 2009 - January 15, 2010



TALLAHASSEE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

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Community College Lowers Utility Costs, Addresses Sustainability Issues

Tallahassee Community College (TCC), founded in 1966, serves more than 14,000 students in three northern Florida counties. Although college facility staff had worked to reduce utility costs, a rate increase meant they needed to find other means to pay for the increased utility costs. Additionally, student population growth meant it was time to update the aging campus infrastructure – and campus leaders wanted to show their commitment to the environment through a sustainable approach.

A performance contract with Johnson Controls that guarantees an 18 percent energy reduction is helping fund \$2.6M of campus renovations. Early returns are even better than expected, with a 21 percent lower overall utility cost after the first year.

Facing Growing Challenges

TCC has experienced tremendous expansion as a growing

number of students attend two-year Florida community colleges, then complete their academic requirements at a four-year state university. The Tallahassee campus alone has 15 buildings, with some 900,000 square feet of classroom and office space. A capital building program in the early 2000's helped the campus address space needs, but older buildings desperately needed upgrades. TCC had done all it could do on its own to reduce utilities and was already operating well below the State Community College utility average of \$2.06/sq ft. After the local utility company increased rates in 2006 and with declining utility rebate funds, the college knew it needed a broader plan to fund infrastructure needs. "As an institution of higher learning, we have three primary responsibilities to uphold - a fiduciary responsibility to the taxpayers in our community, a responsibility to be as resourceful as possible, and a

responsibility to continuously provide our students with the high level of quality education they deserve," said President Bill Law.

Environmental and Infrastructure Improvements

TCC selected Johnson Controls using a Florida Department of Management Services Term Contract for Energy Services. After a thorough audit, Johnson Controls developed a performance contract designed to save nearly \$380,000 per year through a series of upgrades to its control system, lighting system and water system, as well as updating its IT network computer power management.

A performance contract is a means by which higher education institutions make environmental, infrastructure, energy and operational improvements, using guaranteed financial savings to cover project costs. The College financed the energy savings contract and used funds from Capital Outlay and Debt Service Funds to repay the loan. All the renovations were finished within a year with as minimal disruption as possible to the campus.

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Tallahassee Community College (Cont.)

The project costs will be paid back through savings on energy bills for 10 years. After the costs are repaid, TCC can continue to use the savings for other projects.

21 Percent Savings in One Year

At the end of the first year, a required annual reconciliation report indicated the performance contract had saved

TCC \$392,077, 21 percent over the previous year's utility costs. The figures are especially impressive as TCC

facilities have increased in size with the addition of the new parking garage and a new online learning center. TCC improvements include:

- Plumbing and irrigation retrofits, which reduce water and sewer use
- Building and parking lot lighting retrofits, which improve light levels while reducing energy use
- An IT network computer power management program—UPS System
- Continuous re-commissioning of TCC's building controls system
- New chiller at TCC's Florida Public Safety Institute that reduces energy

use 40% over the old chiller. The improvements made under the performance contract are guaranteed to reduce costs 18 percent, from the 2006 utility benchmark of \$1.41 per square foot to approximately \$1.15 per square foot for 2009, making TCC utility expenses the lowest in Florida, based on state community college benchmarks and current utility rates.

Students Benefit

Students on campus are demonstrating their own commitment, inspired by the campus greening project. Members of the Engineering Club are developing ways to use solar energy to power campus vehicles. And the college's Ecotourism and Green Guide classes are filled with students eager to learn how green collar jobs are helping the environment while providing skills for workers.

Strong Partnership with Johnson Controls

For more than 40 years, Tallahassee Community College has relied

on



Johnson Controls to provide comfortable building temperatures while curtailing energy costs. The Fortune 58 company has become a valuable partner in achieving these objectives for both new construction and renovation projects.

Campus
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Note from Editor:

Let us know what exciting things are going on with your campus. Send all articles to kweaver@midsouthcc.edu

Deadline for Next Issue is March 1, 2010

Does Florida's Great Northwest fall under Sunshine Law?

BY MATT DIXON

NEWS HERALD WRITER

Its members include state lawmakers, economic development officials, and industry leaders – all of whom praise its efforts.

The taxpayers pay for the majority of its more than \$4 million in annual funding.

But because it is a private, non-profit organization, its leaders believe it does not fall under Florida's Sunshine Law. As a result, many decisions are made behind closed doors.

Since its 2000 inception, Florida's Great Northwest has been active in economic development across the region.

The group has championed development of a toll road from Montgomery to Panama City. More recently, it helped convince Southwest Airlines to offer flights to and from Bay County's new airport.

County economic development agencies rely on Florida's Great Northwest for various economic recruitment activities. The organization also controls the strings to millions of dollars in federal training grants.

Headquartered in Destin, its members include nearly every taxpayer-funded economic development agency in Northwest Florida, as well as numerous private businesses. Members say Florida's Great Northwest is an indispensable partner in the region's economic development efforts.

"What (Florida's Great Northwest has) done is pull the region in under their umbrella," said Ted Everett, executive director of the Washington County Chamber Of Commerce/EDC.

What is Florida's Great Northwest

The organization doesn't consider itself subject to the same public scrutiny many of its members are required by law to face.

"Florida's Great Northwest is a private, not-for-profit corporation established to grow a vibrant and sustainable economy across 16 counties," marketing director Cristie Kedroski said. "It is our belief that Florida's Great Northwest is not subject to Sunshine Laws."

But a state attorney investigation recently found a similar non-profit group in Santa Rosa County has been unintentionally violating the Sunshine Law.

And experts on the Sunshine Law said non-profit organizations such as Florida's Great Northwest fall into a gray area.

Barbara Petersen, an attorney and executive director of Florida's First Amendment Foundation, said the key is whether Florida's Great Northwest is acting on behalf of other government agencies to promote business.

"If the answer is yes, then Florida's Great Northwest is subject to both the Sunshine Law and the (state) public records law," Petersen said.

Public financing

Since taking over leadership in 2004, Florida's Great Northwest President Al Wenstrand has expanded the reach of the non-profit organization into economic development, with one of its aims being to create an economy in Northwest Florida that can support companies that bring high-paying jobs.

To do that, the group has given more than \$2.5 million to 22 regional organizations involved with various industries since 2007. In addition, Florida's Great Northwest has awarded, but not yet obligated, \$1.6 million in additional grants in 2009, according to financial documents and press releases.

That money comes primarily from a \$15 million "WIRED" grant the organization received from the U.S. Department of Labor. The group's other funding sources include dues from a mix of private/public membership organizations, and contributions from businesses.

In 2007, the group received more than \$2.5 million in public money, or nearly 57 percent of all revenue it brought in, according to filings with the IRS.

Those dollars go to private companies, colleges, school districts and other area economic development groups.

Does Florida's....

continued

More than \$1.6 million of that spending has gone to organizations run by members of Florida's Great Northwest's leadership, or members of their advisory councils, the group's financial documents show.

More than \$1 million in grant money has gone to organizations directly affiliated with members of Florida's Great Northwest's Governance Council, which decides who gets the grant money.

Five current members of Florida's Great Northwest's Governance Council have received grants for organizations they oversee.

They include: Judy Bense, president University of West Florida, \$399,672; David Goetsch, vice president Northwest Florida State College, \$396,039; [William Law, president Tallahassee Community College](#), \$212,321; Matt Miller, ITT Corporation, \$199,927; and Huy Nguyen, Cogon Systems, Inc., \$51,000, according to financial documents.

Wenstrand said the Governance Council members whose organizations received grants "were very diligent in abstaining from those votes."

Sunshine questions

A state attorney's report filed in October criticized a group similar in structure and mission to Florida's Great Northwest for not complying with the Sunshine and Public Records laws.

The report, by First Judicial Circuit State Attorney William "Bill" Eddins, took aim at TEAM Santa Rosa Economic Development Council Inc., or TEAM Santa Rosa.

That group's goal, according to the state attorney's report, is to "increase the economic wealth of Santa Rosa County through the growth of a balanced and sustainable economy." Like Florida's Great Northwest, it is a private non-profit.

The report concluded that because TEAM Santa Rosa, which received \$500,000 from the county in 2008, conducts business for a public entity, it is subject to Sunshine Laws.

"Santa Rosa County has delegated the performance of its public purpose to a private entity," the report explains.

The First Amendment Foundation's Petersen said the state attorney's conclusion about TEAM Santa Rosa likely applies to Florida's Great Northwest as well.

She said that because Florida's Great Northwest meets the state's definition of an economic development agency, it should fall under the Sunshine Law.

"EDAs have a limited exemption for certain specified records," she wrote in an e-mail. "There is NO meeting exemption, however, so all meetings of an EDA must be open and noticed to the public."

Florida's Great Northwest does take minutes and publicly posts notices for meetings held by their Governance Council, which votes on who will receive the federal WIRED grant money. But other steps in the grant process are not open to public inspection.

"Based on the structure of the grant agreement ... Florida's Great Northwest does not believe this initiative falls within Sunshine Law," Kedroski wrote of the WIRED program.

Before going to the Governance Council for a vote, applicants for Florida's Great Northwest's grants are scored and ranked internally. Because those processes are not open, it is unclear how Florida's Great Northwest prioritizes the organizations to be considered for grants.

Although the group does not post notices or keep minutes of its board of directors meetings, Wenstrand said the public is welcome to attend.

"It's not like we are saying don't come. People are welcome to join us," he said.

'We're a partner'

Spokesmen for other publicly funded economic development groups in the region said they maintain a close working relationship with Florida's Great Northwest.

"We're a partner," said Janet Watermier, executive director of the Bay County Economic Development Alliance, of her group's connection to Florida's Great Northwest.

"They are an umbrella organization representing 16 counties," she said.

For example, Watermier said, when Bay County's EDA

Does Florida's....

continued

went to the Paris Air Show, Florida's Great Northwest took care of many of the arrangements.

"I know that when you are working a trade show like that, it takes a year," she said. "Getting my booth space, making my contacts, setting up the appointments, they did that framework."

Goetsch of Northwest Florida State College also cited the trade show as an example of work Florida's Great Northwest does on their behalf.

"We could not afford to do those types of things if we did not rely on Florida's Great Northwest," said Goetsch, the college's vice president for community relations and workforce development.

Others said Florida's Great Northwest provides an indispensable way for area counties to get face time internationally.

Everett, the executive director of the Washington County Chamber Of Commerce/EDC, said Florida's Great Northwest sends out cards to site consultants worldwide marketing vacant land and buildings in his county.

State Rep. Marti Coley, R-Marianna, also represents Chipola College on the board of Florida's Great Northwest. She said the organization is critical to economic development in the region.

Whether the organization falls under the state Sunshine Law is something Coley said has never come up.

"You know, it has never really crossed my mind," Coley said. "I mean, it's not a secretive organization. But I guess it could hinder some of the things they are trying to do."

Travel

Taxpayer-funded member organizations also pay thousands in "participation fees" to travel with Florida's Great Northwest each year, according to a 2007 overview of travel spending provided by the group.

In 2007, five member groups spent \$10,000 to travel to a roundtable breakfast at the law offices of Fogler, Rubinoff LLP in downtown Toronto. Member organizations along

on the trip were: Team Santa Rosa EDC Inc.; Bay County Economic Development Alliance; Opportunity Florida; EDC of Okaloosa County; and Pensacola Bay Area Chamber of Commerce.

During the breakfast, members on the trip gave presentations "outlining investment opportunities in Florida's Great Northwest and recent economic developments in the region," according to Fogler, Rubinoff LLP's Web site.

That was one of five trips costing more than \$144,000 taken by member organizations during 2007.

Wenstrand said it is more efficient to meet with the important players when they are all gathered at one event, as opposed to meeting with them individually.

"It's much more effective to go to Farnborough (England) to meet with 10 or 12 of our domestic companies — the Boeings and the Lockheeds — than it is to try and meet with them one-on-one in the United States," he said, of Florida's Great Northwest's 2008 trip to the Farnborough Air Show.

He said worldwide travel helps attract international industry to the region.

"It's something we need to do," Wenstrand said.

Turnbull has vision for FAMU

By Julian Kemper
STAFF EDITOR

Florida A&M's newest Board of Trustees member, Marjorie Turnbull brings both knowledge and expertise in the field of education and public policy.

Turnbull is a former State Representative and Board of Trustees member at Edward Waters College in Jacksonville.

Trustee Robert Brown announced he would not submit his name for reappointment and FAMU President James Ammons appointed Turnbull. In an official statement from the Office of the President, Ammons called her "a wonderful person with a wealth of knowledge that will benefit FAMU."

"I do believe that the board and Dr. Ammons have a vision for the direction they wish to take the university and have made great strides toward achieving that vision, and I certainly want to be a part of that and do whatever I can to help further that goal," Turnbull said.

Turnbull is the daughter of J. Wayne Reitz, former president of the University of Florida and the widow of Augustus Turnbull, former provost of Florida State University.

"I always say my experience with universities started in the womb," Turnbull said.

This is not Turnbull's first time working with a Historically Black College and University.

"I served on the board of trustees at Edward Waters College and that gave me a lot of insight into HBCUs: their importance, student retention rates and why students chose to attend," Turnbull said.

She also worked for 11 years heading up the foundation for Florida's Community Colleges at [Tallahassee Community College](#) and had the opportunity to work closely with FAMU.

In this capacity, Turnbull helped raise money for scholarships for students who were going to get their start at TCC and then complete their education at FAMU.

"Marjorie Turnbull has an outstanding reputation," said Walter A. McNeil, Florida Department of Corrections secretary. "She steadily supports system improvements to help the youth of Florida."

Fired TCC employee appeals to trustees

By Angeline J. Taylor
DEMOCRAT STAFF WRITER

Former Tallahassee Community College employee Mary Wright hoped her appeal to trustees Monday would overturn President Bill Law's decision to fire her.

"I have a very heavy heart today and a very weary spirit," Wright said. "I love my job. I love what I do and I want my job back."

Trustees listened to her appeal and unanimously upheld Law's decision to fire Wright, who worked as a specialist in the Learning Commons. She was fired effective Sept. 22.

Law said in a memo to trustees that Wright was terminated for "threatening or abusive language," "violence, fighting or sexual battery/assault," and "use or threatening use of weapons."

Law said Wright told a fellow co-worker, "that she should not 'mess' with other people's jobs and referenced the fact that such situations cause people to do unexpected things, like bring a gun to the workplace."

Wright, who had worked at TCC for about a year, was initially suspended for three days without pay. According to school documents, she was placed on 10 days administrative leave without pay on Sept. 8. Then she was fired.

She pointed out that if the allegations were true, why didn't TCC alert police to the incident.

"I'm not only suspended but now terminated and no one has given me any kind of facts," she said.

Attorney Carolyn Cummings represented Wright before trustees.

Cummings said, "She (Wright) was not given an opportunity to face her accusers."

Law, who attended Monday's meeting, said, "We gave her ... a number of opportunities."

Wright offered trustees a three-page affidavit detailing her side of an employee disagreement that started on Aug. 28. On Aug. 31, Wright was under the impression that the incident was settled after she and her co-worker met in their supervisor's office.

She was suspended Sept. 1.

TCC Kicks Off International Education Week

Local college students are celebrating international education by displaying a little bit of their culture.

REPORTER: TARA HERRSCHAFT

EMAIL ADDRESS: TARA.HERRSCHAFT@WCTV.TV

Tallahassee Community College kicked off International Education Week with a parade of nations. Students marched around campus holding his or her country's flag.

Students say it's important for their peers and teachers to see how many countries are being represented on campus. "It's just cool, because you just see a lot of culture. So it opens your mind a lot more than you would think, just being with people that are the same as you are," said Agrien Buttard, who is a TCC student from France.

Doctor Steve Uhlfelder was Monday's guest speaker. All week long students can learn about TCC's international programs and other countries through displays and sampling native foods.

City Hosts International Students' Reception

Annual Event Helps Acclimate Students to Tallahassee.

REPORTER: PRESS RELEASE

The City of Tallahassee will host the 10th annual Charles Billings International Students' Reception on Monday, Nov. 23, from 6 to 8 p.m. at the Mary Brogan Museum of Art and Science. The event is designed to familiarize international college students with the downtown area, City services, local vendors and community organizations. The reception is free to the public.

Participating institutions include Florida A & M University, Florida State University, Tallahassee Community College, Lively Technical Center, the Mary Brogan Museum of Art and Science, and the TLH-SXM Foundation. As in previous years the atmosphere promises to be festive, with the event including refreshments, live entertainment, and door prizes.

Hosting the event downtown exposes this client base to the many activities, facilities, and venues in Tallahassee's city center. Students also learn about the variety of services offered by City government, ranging from mass transit on StarMetro to utility services, and they also are able to access information on Tallahassee's local businesses and cultural organizations. The event also links the City with the large university student community present in Tallahassee.

The event traces its origin to 2000, when the late City Commissioner Charles Billings suggested the City host a special day to recognize international students attending local universities and colleges. With the success of the first reception, Commissioner Billings and City Manager Anita Favors Thompson supported creating an annual event to honor international students. The event is sponsored by the City's Economic and Community Development Department, as an outreach of both economic development and sister city/international affairs efforts.

For more information regarding this event, students should contact their school's International Center or Student Service Department, or the City of Tallahassee's Economic and Community Development Department at 891-6500 or online at Talgov.com.

FSU goes global

International Education Week crosses borders

By Caitlin Stull

PUBLICATION

International Education Week, a joint initiative of the United States' Departments of State and Education that celebrates the benefits of international education and cultural exchanges worldwide, began Monday, Nov. 16 and will culminate on Friday, Nov. 20.

Since 2006, Florida State University has participated in the international event, which began nation-wide in 2000, and is now recognized in over 100 countries.

"International Education Week serves to promote programs and initiatives that will prepare U.S. American students for a global environment, as well as to attract people from abroad to experience U.S. American culture," said Aleksandra Nestic, cross-cultural campus and community program coordinator at FSU's International Center. "By raising awareness and building connections across nations and throughout international and domestic cultures, individuals can come together to help build better futures for everyone."

Co-hosted by FSU's International Center, the Sustainable Campus Initiative and Peace Jam, as well as in cooperation with numerous departments and organizations throughout FSU including the Middle East Center and the Student Life Center, the campus-wide effort scheduled a wide-array of events designed to provide the FSU community a holistic view of global awareness.

All of the events are free of charge and open to the public and are reflections of this year's selected campus theme: "Your Role in Building a Better Future."

"We see that there are so many global issues such as global warming, poverty and hunger, and these issues aren't specific to one country; they permeate borders and touch lives worldwide, so by bringing them to our campus and exposing students to a variety of issues, we are allowing them the responsibility to educate themselves, to become involved and to take action," said Nestic. "We are all connected to these issues faced within the world, and these complexities need to be understood in order to create a positive social change."

The week kicked off Monday, Nov. 16 with several unique events that all focused on different aspects of global

awareness.

The Trans-Mediterranean Satellite TV: France and the Maghreb lecture featured key-speaker Tristan Mattelart of the French Press Institute.

Mattelart presented developments on the research project he is heading, which deals with the flow of transnational satellite television throughout the Mediterranean region. With satellite broadcasting serving as a massive means of globalization, Mattelart focused on the implications of transnational broadcasting for North African migrant groups that have settled in various areas, mainly France.

The movie, *Taking Root: The Vision of Wangari Maatha*, was shown at 6 p.m. in Broad Auditorium at the Claude Pepper Center and was then followed by a group discussion, led by FSU Peace Jam Coordinator Rody Thompson.

"The film was absolutely beautiful and overwhelmingly empowering," said Thompson. "The country of Kenya has been partially destroyed by its political unrest, and to see how this woman was able to take an impoverished group of women and turn them into real forces of change was amazing."

At 8 p.m. on Monday evening, the FSU African Music and Dance Ensemble performed for a full house at the Dohnanyi Music Hall. The ensemble has performed music from various regions of Africa including the Ashanti drumming and Ga xylophone music of West Africa, amadinda xylophone music from Uganda and string instruments, vocals and dance from the kingdom of Buganda.

A full day of events was also scheduled for Wednesday, Nov. 18.

From 3 to 5 p.m., The Middle East Center hosted an open house to help engage the FSU and surrounding community in cultural aspects of the Middle East. Traditional Middle Eastern desserts, including baklava and ma'amoul, were served along with coffee and tea.

FSU goes Global...

continued

From 7 to 8:30 p.m., also in Broad Auditorium, this month's Engage Your World Discussion Series on Critical Global Issues was held. The Engage Your World Discussion Series is a monthly lecture series that covers a variety of social justice issues including human rights and immigration.

This month's discussion, entitled "Redefining Global Citizenship: Students as Diplomats and Cultural Ambassadors," focused on what it means to be a global citizen and featured guest speaker Flavia Ramos, visiting associate in research at the Learning Systems Institute.

Sponsored by the Union Productions, The Bollywood Bash: A Celebration of Indian Culture was held at 8:30 p.m. in the Union Ballrooms.

The event featured traditional Indian music, food and dancing.

The movie Everything is Illuminated will be shown on Thursday, Nov. 19 at 5 p.m. in the HCB building room 101, and will be followed by a discussion on human rights led by Ray Ruggiero, a Ph.D candidate in the Department of Humanities who teaches a Human Rights literature and film class at FSU.

Two events will close International Education Week at FSU on Friday, Nov. 20.

Sponsored by the Center for Leadership and Civic Education, the International Center and FSU International Programs, the Going Global Showcase will take place from 3 to 5 p.m. in rooms 201 and 203 of the Student Services Building and will feature presentations from FSU students who have gone abroad to study, volunteer or intern. There will also be booths providing interested students information on financial assistance to fund their global-endeavors, as well as various study and volunteer abroad options that students have available. International food will also be served at the event.

"I think it's so great that FSU students who have been lucky enough to experience the amazing opportunities to study or volunteer abroad are gracious enough to share their experiences with students who have similar

interests and who really want to find ways to make their dreams realities," said FSU junior business and creative writing major Stephanie Prinz.

Sponsored by the International Center, the International Reception and World Drum Circle will take place from 5 to 8 p.m. in the International Center, and will provide international and U.S. students, scholars and faculty with the opportunity to meet one another and come together in "one beat" in celebration of International Education Week and its many benefits.

The World Drum Circle will begin playing at 6 p.m., and international food will be served throughout this event as well.

The final "city-wide" event in celebration of International Education Week is the 10th Annual Charles Billings International Students' Reception that will be held Monday, Nov. 23 from 6 to 8 p.m. at the Mary Brogan Museum of Arts and Science. Sponsored by The City of Tallahassee in partnership with FSU, Florida A&M University, [Tallahassee Community College](#), Lively Technological College, the Tallahassee-SXM Foundation and the Mary Brogan Museum of Art and Science, the event is free of charge and open to all international students and scholars, as well as their families, within the city of Tallahassee.

If international students are interested in attending, but do not have a means of transportation, they can visit the FSU International Center Web site, www.internationalcenter.fsu.edu, to register for a seat in a van that will provide free transportation to and from FSU.

"We are really lucky to have a city that recognizes the number on international students that we have here in Tallahassee, as well as the importance of recognizing the cultural diversity that they bring to the area," said Nestic. "International Education Week's many participants are helping to allow our community to engage in global citizenship, and to encourage all to become active in making our world a global community that is better-suited for all."

Florida jobless rate up slightly

By Jim Ash

FLORIDA CAPITAL BUREAU CHIEF

Florida's unemployment rate inched higher in October to 11.2 percent, with slightly more than 1 million workers without a job.

Florida's rate increased one-tenth of a percentage point from September, practically unchanged, but remained a full percentage point above the national average of 10.2 percent. The Florida rate now is 4.5 points higher than October of last year.

The last time unemployment was this high in Florida was 1975, when the rate hit 11.9 percent.

The latest projection from state economists is that joblessness will peak in Florida at 11.4 percent in the second quarter of next year.

Florida's unemployment is the third-highest in the nation, behind Michigan at 15.1 percent and Nevada at 13 percent.

Florida's top labor official continued to be optimistic, saying that she sees signs of a slow recovery. She noted that Florida's rate of job decline in October was a percentage point better than March.

"This rate indicates that Florida families and businesses are still facing challenges, while fewer job losses reveal slight improvement in the economic climate," said Agency for Workforce Innovation Director Cynthia Lorenzo.

Recovery will be slower in Sunbelt states like Florida and California that have traditionally relied on growth, largely because tight credit markets are squeezing the housing market, said AWI's chief economist, Rebecca Rust. However, there are signs of a recovery, she said.

"We do have to remember that a year ago, we were worried about going into a second Great Depression," she said.

In the Big Bend, the Leon County rate of 7.1 percent was down a tenth of a percentage point from September

but still significantly higher than the 4.8 percent rate in October last year. The Gadsden rate for October hit 9.4 percent, down a tenth of a percentage point from September. Jefferson was 8.8 percent in October, up four-tenths of a percentage point from September. Wakulla hit 7.7 percent in October, up three-tenths of a percentage point from September.

Leon and the surrounding counties are protected from the worst of the recession by a comparatively stable state government, university and health care workforce, said Kimberly Moore, chief executive officer of Workforce Plus.

Her group is worried about the potential layoff of 200 agricultural workers in Gadsden County, but it also has logged some 500 openings in health care, including nursing, X-ray technicians and in health information technology. Moore urged anyone interested to go to BigBendHealth.com to find job opportunities.

Next week, her group expects to announce a \$300,000 federal stimulus grant for health-care training programs that will be administered through [Tallahassee Community College](http://TallahasseeCommunityCollege.edu).

"I'm seeing pockets of recovery but I'm also continuing to see layoffs," she said.

University Town: How Much of Our Tax dollars Pay for Academics and Research?

By John Rogers

JOHN.ROGERS@WCTV.TV

Professor Darrin McMahon is living in the past, and bringing his students with him.

FSU History Professor Darrin McMahon says, "I think it's important that people have a sense of where their ideas come from."

McMahon teaches French History and the history of intellectualism, but it's certainly not a 9-to-5 gig.

"Talk to my wife, basically I work all the time," says McMahon, "I work at home an awful lot, I work on weekends, I work in the summer and indeed, it's often when I'm not teaching that I'm working the hardest."

And professors have to earn their keep.

During the 2008-2009 school year at Florida State, the average salary for a full-time professor was \$101,364. In the fall and spring semesters, the number of classes taught by each professor varied, but on average, there were around 31 students for each full-time professor on campus.

McMahon says, "I'm in this extraordinary privileged position of being able to do what I love to do."

Full-time professors at [Tallahassee Community College](#) earn between \$40,330.00 to \$78,747.35. And each teach an average of around four to five classes a week, depending on course credit and class sizes.

Florida A&M faculty salaries range from \$30,759 to \$244,800

For each faculty member, there are around 18 students.

Aside from spreading knowledge, FSU and FAMU do much more.

FSU Associate V.P. for Research Ross Ellington says, "Research generates new knowledge, it generates products, it generates expertise."

And it generates big bucks. FAMU received more than \$43,000,000 for research. Most of it is federal money. Florida State received \$200,000,000 in cash for research. And \$130,000,000 of that came from federal grants.

The money pays for supplies, stipends for graduate students and salary support for the researchers.

Ellington says, "Which incidentally contributes to the local economy, these are people that are paying taxes and paying rent and so forth."

But some of these research ideas can turn into actual products that are sold on the market. Ellington says in those cases, the researcher would get a share of the proceeds with the university getting the bulk of the money. But he says money is not so important.

Ellington says, "By and large, most of us are doing our research because we love to do the research."

And McMahon loves what he does too. It certainly is time consuming, and sometimes arduous-

"Grading papers is the least favorite, it's just a painful thing to do," he says.

But as the saying goes, if you love what you do, then you've never worked a day in your life.

On Wednesday, we will look into the salaries of athletic coaches in our colleges. And he'll also investigate why they receive money from apparel companies like Nike.

Local Health Care Industry Gets A \$300,000 Boost

Press Release

NEWS@WCTV.TV

WORKFORCE plus Press Release:

Tallahassee, Fla. –

WORKFORCE plus has been awarded a \$300,000 grant from Workforce Florida Inc. to address the needs of the health care industry in Tallahassee.

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"A collaboration between [Tallahassee Community College](#) and WORKFORCE plus that includes our health care partners will be a model for quickly responding to regional workforce needs," stated John Chapin, Vice President for Economic & Workforce Development at [Tallahassee Community College](#). "This grant presents an opportunity to do this. The same model will be applicable to future workforce needs."

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"Under the collaborative partnership, we have been afforded a unique opportunity to develop curriculum and provide training in high demand areas that align with the current trends seen in health care," stated Kimberly A. Moore, chief executive officer of WORKFORCE plus. "Further, we will be able to address a current employer need to deliver continuing training to nurses in specialized areas that will allow our health care providers to remain competitive and meet staff training needs."

On November 20, 2009, Florida's October Employment figures released indicated that health care has been the only growth sector in Florida over the year. Florida saw an increase of over 11,500 jobs since October 2008.

"Capital Regional Medical Center is very proud to be part of this project with WORKFORCE plus, Tallahassee Community College and Tallahassee Memorial," Stated Capital Regional Medical Center CEO, Bud Wethington. "This is a fabulous opportunity for the health care community to work together with the educational community for the improvement of health services by educating our own citizens to establish careers right here at home."

Funding for these short-term training opportunities is provided through the American Recovery & Reinvestment Act signed by President Obama in February 2009. The Act has a number of strategic elements that are designed to help stimulate the economy and create or sustain jobs.

For more information, contact WORKFORCE plus at (866) WFP-JOB1.

TCC Lunch and Learn Series Announces Its December Lineup

Reporter: Press Release

TALLAHASSEE, Fla.-

Tallahassee Community College's Career Center, in conjunction with Leading Edge Networking, continues its new TCC Lunch and Learn Series on Tuesday, December 1.

TCC students, faculty, staff and alumni, as well as the Tallahassee community, are invited to attend Tuesday's event, scheduled for 11:45 a.m. to 1 p.m. in Room 104 of the Fine and Performing Arts Center.

TCC's Career Center launched this innovative workshop series in October, providing a monthly opportunity to learn from and network with professional experts in a variety of career fields.

The topic for December's workshop is "Helping YOU Market YOU in Today's Business World." Panel guests will include: Dennis Florence, Marketing Merchandise; Walter Ciliberto, Gandy Printers; and Kelly Garland, adjunct faculty member at TCC.

"The TCC Lunch and Learn program has been very informative thus far," said Catie Goodman, Internship Program Coordinator. "The December program will focus on marketing yourself and/or your business in today's economy – skills that are key to becoming successful."

According to Goodman, November's workshop drew a larger turnout than October's inaugural event and TCC is expecting an even bigger crowd on Tuesday.

Attendees are welcome to bring their own lunch, however, free pizza will be served to the first 100 guests.

Those interested in attending are asked to RSVP to Catie Goodman, goodmanc@tcc.fl.edu, or Dennis Florence, yourgifts123@yahoo.com.

TCC Receives Three Awards From NCMPR

Reporter: Press Release

TALLAHASSEE, Fla.

Tallahassee Community College's Office of Communications and Public Information has received three awards from the National Council for Marketing & Public Relations (NCMPR).

The NCMPR District 2 Medallion Awards recognize outstanding achievement in communications at community and technical colleges in District 2 and is the only regional competition of its kind that honors excellence exclusively among marketing and PR professionals at two-year colleges. NCMPR's District 2 is comprised of Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, West Virginia, The Bahamas and Bermuda.

TCC received Gold Awards in the Folder Cover and Sports Brochure categories, as well as a Bronze Award in the Video Advertisement/PSA, Single category.

In the Folder Cover category, TCC's Ask Me Folder, used as part of the College's orientation campaign, received top honors.

In the Sports Brochure category, TCC's 2009 Baseball Media Guide took top honors.

The College's popular "We Are" campaign was recognized as the bronze award winner in the Video Advertisement/PSA, single category.

University Town: The High Price of College Athletics

By John Rogers

JOHN.ROGERS@WCTV.TV

The Roger Holler Champions Training Complex at FSU is an elite gym with custom-built equipment and more than ten tons of free weights, all for use by FSU student athletes and staff.

FSU Deputy Athletics Director Kellie Elliott says, "FSU's athletics is one of the very few athletic programs where it self-sustains."

Funded by the success of FSU's sports teams. Officials say the cash flow comes from ticket sales, the ACC conference, TV contracts, sponsorship dollars, and a small portion comes from student fees.

But the athletics department does get \$350,000 from FSU to help pay scholarships for international students.

"But we do have a substantial scholarship bill," says Elliott.

FSU athletics says it gives about \$250,000 back to the school for library causes and educational projects.

FSU Head Football Coach Bobby Bowden earns a base salary of \$235,000. Combined with other agreements like speech fees, television appearances and bowl wins, Bowden receives a grand total of more than \$2.2 million.

Head Coach-in-Waiting Jimbo Fisher has a base salary of \$215,000, but combined with other agreements, Fisher earns around \$625,000 a year.

FSU Athletics says each coach works more than 40 hours a week.

Nearby on FAMU's campus, Coach Joe Taylor works hard too, about 80 hours a week, but it's worth it.

FAMU Head Football Coach Joe Taylor says, "If you are really concerned about helping young people, you don't look at it as being tough, you look at it as doing what you have to do."

FAMU Athletics says Coach Taylor earns about \$225,000 a year plus a \$12,000 allowance for housing.

The department itself is also self-supporting, getting its cash from ticket sales and boosters.

Over at [Tallahassee Community College](#), the men's head basketball coach earns \$59,673.22.

But when fans watch their college teams, chances are they're bombarded with advertising, from head-to-toe. The ten-year contract between Nike and FSU is valued at about \$34 million, and pays for athletic equipment, uniforms, and supplemental salaries, but the athletics department says it's a win-win for all.

Elliott says, "It also allows a great partnership for advertising so you kind of work as a partner with your apparel company to promote one another."

It costs money to make money and the same can be said for college sports.

On Wednesday we will investigate the use of public facilities. How much of our taxpayer money goes into centers like libraries and research labs and can the taxpayers access them?

Virtual world not just for kids

By Pam Wilson

READER SUBMITTED

At a time when, kids are “flipping pages” to read “Twilight” on their ITouch and playing virtual guitar to their favorite songs on Xbox360’s RockBand, seniors are also keeping up with technology and experiencing the benefits of lifelong learning at Westminster Oaks Active Living Community.

Charlotte E. Maguire, MD Endowed Chair, Department of Geriatrics, recently said at the Grand Opening of the Maguire Center for Lifelong Learning, “We have strong scientific evidence of the value of learning to a healthy and vigorous life. People who maintain their mental exercise have less dementia and maintain independence longer.”

The Maguire Center for Lifelong Learning, which opened at Westminster Oaks Nov. 14th, is the host site for the community’s Virtual Library. Not meant to replace their traditional library, this computer-based library gives fingertip access to residents of Westminster Oaks to a plethora of resource web links through an easy to use drop screen index with topics ranging from health to genealogy and everything in between. With information changing daily, Westminster Oaks is committed to its residents having the best access to web based learning available. A team of Westminster Oaks’ residents researched the library’s links to carefully select those most meaningful to seniors’ multifaceted interests.

PlayStation’s Wii is also quickly becoming a favorite social and fitness alternative for Westminster Oaks’ residents. Residents, eager to join the latest fitness bandwagon, have literally jumped in with both feet and just competed with sister communities throughout the state in its first Wii Bowling Tournament. Rev. David Day was the local winner. Others are honing their “off the court” tennis skills with a game of virtual tennis. Ginny Musick, a regular tennis player on Westminster Oaks’ court says, “It’s fun. We can play it indoors when the weather is inclement, and it really engages you mentally and physically!”

Westminster Oaks, part of a not-for-profit organization of 21 retirement communities throughout Florida is committed to its mission of “promoting wellness and encouraging healthy lifestyle choices.” As part of that commitment, Donald Wilson, Executive Director of Westminster Oaks, has partnered with the Academy at FSU, Florida Humanities Council, [Tallahassee Community College](#), FSU College of Medicine and other educational and cultural resources to help the people who live at Westminster Oaks challenge their minds, stay socially connected, and enhance themselves physically and spiritually to improve their overall sense of well being.

Community outreach enriches Thanksgiving

By Rachel Martin

CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Several Thanksgiving events took place in Tallahassee this past week, all of which strove to give back to the community with gusto. As one example, a Thanksgiving luncheon took place at St. Peter Primitive Baptist Church Fellowship Hall for anyone who wished to attend. Dorothy Henry, chairperson of the event, has been supervising the program for four years.

"There were just two of us in my family and I like doing Thanksgiving dinner, but we didn't have anyone to eat it," said Henry. "I decided rather than waste food, we could do it at the church and still feed other people."

The luncheon took place from noon to 3 p.m. and had a fair turnout.

"The ones who came were very satisfied; we had prepared for more people," said Henry, "We had a lot of volunteers, and I think it went quite well."

Annie Johnson also hosts Thanksgiving and Christmas dinners each year through the not-for-profit Project Annie. Johnson has organized the effort for 11 years, and she now prepares for about 1,200 people for each event.

Students and staff from [Tallahassee Community College](#) also contribute by donating food items to help her prepare for the big day. Over 40 people volunteered and everyone who attended was fed.

The Big Bend Homeless Coalition also held a traditional Thanksgiving dinner for the homeless and those without family to spend time with. Clothes, food, blankets, hygiene items and other necessities were donated and distributed. Besides dinner, it offered live entertainment and the chance for attendees to call their families. Premier Construction and Development, Inc., Premier Health Clinic and Rehab, Sandco, The MLK Foundation of Florida and America's Second Harvest of the Big Bend sponsored the event. Second Harvest donates over 3.5 million pounds of food every year, in coordination with 110 not-for-profit organizations.

The Big Bend Homeless Coalition has been hosting this dinner for 25 years, and the turnout continues to grow.

For more information on these not-for-profit organizations and the services they provide, visit www.bigbendhc.org.

St. Petersburg Times - December 2, 2009

Mayor Rick Baker is among 25 SPC hopefuls

By Aaron Sharockman

TIMES STAFF WRITER

St. Petersburg Mayor Rick Baker is one of 25 applicants to become St. Petersburg College's next president.

Applications were due by midnight Tuesday.

Baker's references include Pinellas schools superintendent Julie Jansen, University of North Florida president and former Jacksonville Mayor John Delaney, U.S. Rep. C.W. Bill Young and Curt Carlson, the president of the worldwide research firm SRI International.

A 13-member search committee is expected to cull the list of applicants to a handful of finalists early next year. A successor to current president Carl Kuttler, who is retiring, could be named by spring.

Other applicants include:

- William D. Law, the current president of [Tallahassee Community College](#) and a former St. Petersburg College vice president.

- Lance Bolton, president of Northeastern Junior College in Sterling, Colo.

- Harry Sikorski, chief development officer of Farmingdale State College in Farmingdale, N.Y.

- Timothy Meyer, chancellor of Oakland Community College in Bloomfield Hills, Mich.

- Thomas Keegan, president of Peninsula College in Port Angeles, Wash.

- Joseph Bragin, provost of Missouri Western State University in St. Joseph, Mo.

- John Balog, vice president for student life of Jacksonville University.

- Timothy Beard, vice president for student enrollment of Pasco-Hernando Community College.

Local Health Care Industry Receives A \$300,000 Boost

Reporter: Press Release

EMAIL ADDRESS: NEWS@WCTV.TV

WORKFORCE plus Press Release:

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For more information, contact WORKFORCE plus at (866) WFP-JOB1.

TCC Continues Its Support Of State Employees With Option For Tuition-Free Classes

Reporter: Press Release

EMAIL ADDRESS: NEWS@WCTV.TV

TCC Press Release:

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. –

During the upcoming spring semester, Tallahassee Community College will continue to offer State of Florida employees the opportunity to take classes tuition free.

Through TCC's existing State Employee Tuition Waiver Program, full-time state employees are eligible to take up to six (6) credit hours per semester on a space available basis. The program does not cover the cost for books, lab fees and late application fees. Additionally, some student services fees may not be covered by the program.

"TCC is proud to offer state employees the opportunity to further their education free of charge, whether it is to enhance their skill set, for personal development or just for personal interest," said Dr. Sheri Rowland, Dean of Enrollment Management.

According to Rowland, web-based courses are also eligible under the program, on a space-available basis. Self-paced instruction, TV and non-credit courses do not qualify; however, web-assisted, web-based and remedial courses are eligible.

Because TCC cannot process tuition waivers during the College's Winter Break, which runs Saturday, December 19 through Sunday, January 3, State of Florida employees will only have a three-day registration window prior to the College closing for the holidays.

Interested participants can register for available classes in TCC's Spring 2010 Main and A sessions between 8 a.m., Wednesday, December 16 and 4 p.m., Friday, December 18. Registration will resume at 8 a.m., Monday, January 4 and continue through 5 p.m., Thursday, January 7.

TCC's Spring 2010 Main and A sessions begin Wednesday, January 6.

Additionally, State of Florida employees will have the opportunity to register for Spring 2010 B session (February 16-25) and C session (January 16-26) classes.

All full-time permanent state employees as certified by the agency's supervisor and agency head and by the Bureau of State Payrolls in the Department of Financial Services are eligible to participate in the program. In addition, state departments that handle their own payroll must submit a payroll authorization letter verifying the student's employment status, if applicable. State of Florida employees who are also receiving federal financial aid are eligible to use the TCC State Employee Tuition Waiver. However, State University System employees are not eligible to participate.

First-time participants in the program must first apply for admission to the College by logging on to www.GoToTCC.com. Once admitted, qualified participants can register for classes by logging on to TCC Passport at tccpassport.tcc.fl.edu during the established registration window. After successfully registering for a class, state employees must submit the TCC State Tuition Waiver Form, with all of the required signatures, to the Enrollment Services office by the payment deadline on the student's schedule/fee slip to avoid registration issues.

For more information on TCC's State Tuition Waiver Program, contact the Office of Enrollment Services at (850) 201-8555, or log on to www.tcc.fl.edu/stateemployee for additional information, as registration dates are subject to change without notice.

MAKE **TCC** YOUR FIRST CHOICE FOR COLLEGE.

Leon County High School Nights December 1 and 17 •
Basketball doubleheader in the Eagledome • 5:30 and 7:30 p.m.
High School students admitted free with school ID

Dual Enrollment Application Deadline for Spring 2010: **Dec. 1**

www.GoToTCC.com | (850) 201-8555 | admissions@tcc.fl.edu



Wolf Prints - December 2009 / January 2010

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Scholarship Fair October 29 • 5:30-7:30 p.m. • SU Ballroom
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TCC President Eying Position At St. Pete College

Florida State is well into its search for a new President, and down the road, TCC may have to start a search of its own.

Tallahassee Community College President Bill Law wrote a letter to his TCC family explaining that he has put his name in the hat for the presidency of St. Pete College.

Law previously worked for St. Pete junior College before coming to Tallahassee for the presidency role at TCC.

Law states in his letter that he will continue to put forth his best energies and efforts toward TCC.

The selection process for role of president at St. Pete College is in its beginning stages and no final nominations for the position have been made.

Letter from Bill Law:

I write this difficult email to share the news that I have agreed to be considered for the Presidency of St. Petersburg College.

The decision to pursue this position was very difficult for me and for Pat. I can't disagree with those who think I have the best job in Florida. I've not had a single day of disappointment or regret since arriving in Tallahassee more than 7½ years ago. In fact, just the opposite has been our experience – we have been gratified by our decision to return here.

What, then, could cause me to look for new opportunities and challenges?

You may recall that I started my community college career in the early 80's at St. Pete (Junior) College. My experience at that institution was highly positive. I made many friendships while there, many of which endure to this day.

Not unlike our Tallahassee experience, Pat and I established ourselves in the Pinellas County community. Our son Matthew was born there, our kids started school there, Pat earned her CPA credentials through the University of South Florida.

When the president's position at SPC recently became vacant, a number of former colleagues and community leaders contacted me to urge my candidacy. I agreed to take a look. In exploring the needs of the college, I found that many of the things that have characterized our recent efforts will be important for the next president:

- A focus on strengthening the core academic programs;
- A similar focus on student support and success;

- Developing open and participatory processes;

- Strong strategic planning and planning processes;

- The ability to succeed a charismatic, sometimes 'larger-than-life' personality.

In addition, my exploration also led me to discover that Pinellas County is working very aggressively to expand their economic base. All of you are aware of my significant interest in and commitment to economic development issues.

Finally, the leadership of a large, multi-campus college is the only 'rung' on the professional ladder left in my career. Achieving that rung has not been a burning desire for me, even less since joining TCC. The unique circumstances associated with the opening at St. Pete College provide a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to try to reach that remaining professional level. I hope you can discern the unique match of the college's needs, my strengths and interests and my history with the institution.

I know that you won't be surprised to learn that I have declined repeatedly to respond to similar overtures in the past few years. I have not been a candidate for any other positions, nor will I be a candidate in the future.

That these searches are conducted in full public light is a fact of life in Florida. The need for open, visible, and documented processes outweighs the personal and organizational uncertainties created by weeks and months of process before a decision is reached. I regret deeply the fact that our college needs to endure this uncertainty while events play out in Pinellas County.

Finally, let me say that applying for a position is a long way from being selected. As many of you will recall from the TCC search, the clear focus on candidates does not materialize until the interviews commence. St. Pete College will attract a number of exceptionally well-qualified candidates, many of whom can provide excellent leadership to the college. I expect that I'll be a finalist for the position; whether I will be offered the position is to be determined.

My suggestion is that in these uncertain times we continue to remain focused on the needs of our community and the financial health of our college. I intend to continue to provide my very best energies and efforts every single day.

Thank you.

Bill

TCC's Law applies for new position

By Doug Blackburn

DEMOCRAT SENIOR WRITER

Members of the Board of Trustees at Tallahassee Community College have only high praise for President Bill Law, who informed them Tuesday he is applying for the top job at St. Petersburg College.

Law, TCC's president for more than seven years, began his career in junior college administration at St. Petersburg College in the early 1980s.

He is one of more than two dozen applicants for the position being vacated by Carl Kuttler, who has led the Pinellas County community college system since 1978.

Trustees at the college Tuesday unanimously chose former college administrator Tom Furlong as interim president starting Jan. 1. The college hopes to have a permanent replacement selected by spring 2010.

Karen Moore, chairwoman of TCC's seven-member board, admitted she would be relieved if Law isn't chosen for the job in St. Petersburg.

"This college and the community has had such a wonderful opportunity of having Bill Law as president of the college — he's been such a great resource," Moore said. "We obviously would like to have Dr. Law as long as he is able to serve in this position."

In an e-mail to trustees and other members of the TCC community, Law said he regretted the uncertainty he has created at TCC by applying for the presidency at St. Petersburg College.

"I know that you won't be surprised to learn that I have declined repeatedly to respond to similar overtures in the past few years," Law said. "I have not been a candidate for any other positions, nor will I be a candidate in the future."

Unlike TCC, St. Petersburg College has multiple campuses, which Law described as "the only rung on the professional ladder left in my professional career."

TCC Trustee Bill Hebrock has been on the board for 10 years and was a member of the committee that selected Law in 2002.

"I'm quite concerned for the community right now," Hebrock said. "The TCC family and the community needs to take a deep breath and calm down and realize Bill Law is still the leader at TCC, and he could be here another five years.

"When he does leave, we'll do our job and find another diamond-in-the-rough, another president of world-class caliber. And that's exactly what Bill Law is."

TCC Model United Nations Receives Awards At The Southern Regional Model UN Conference press release

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. -

Tallahassee Community College's Model United Nations (TCC MUN), an internationally recognized academic team that participates in simulations of the United Nations, recently participated in the Southern Regional Model United Nations (SRMUN) Conference, held in Atlanta, Ga.

The conference hosted 43 colleges and universities from New York to California, including Pace University, Kennesaw State University, the University of North Carolina, Florida State University and the University of Florida.

TCC students who participated in the conference debated international politics and policy and discussed topics such as the regulation of multinational corporations in free trade zones, the return and reintegration of refugees, and the democratization of the United Nations structure among many others.

Despite the high level of competition, TCC MUN returned with two high level awards. The team received a Distinguished Delegation Award for its representation of the Kingdom of Norway and an Honorable Delegation Award for its representation of Palestine.

Head Delegates Heath Harley and Paul Murphy led TCC MUN's representation of the Kingdom of Norway and Palestine, respectively. TCC MUN also represented the Republic of Lebanon, led by Head Delegate Kyle

Patterson.

TCC MUN's success in Atlanta came on the heels of another successful event, the Florida Model United Nations (FMUN) Conference, which took place in Gainesville, Fla., in October.

At FMUN, TCC MUN received several honors including an Outstanding Delegation Award for its representation of Sudan, a Distinguished Delegation Award for its representation of Turkey and an Honorable Delegation Award for its representation of Uganda and Estonia. Individually, TCC MUN member Ryan Riebling received an Outstanding Delegate Award.

In addition to participating in various conferences, TCC MUN has been busy organizing several community projects throughout Tallahassee. In October, TCC MUN organized a "Trick or Treat for UNICEF" drive, which raised over \$175 for children in need around the world.

TCC MUN, in partnership with TCC's International Student Services, also organized a screening of Occupation 101, a documentary detailing the Israeli-Palestinian conflict from within the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

Looking ahead, TCC MUN will attend the National Model United Nations (NMUN) in New York City during the spring semester. NMUN is held annually at the United Nations headquarters and various international locations adjacent to the UN.

WCTV - December 3, 2009

Tallahassee college leaders hope SPC leaves their guy alone

Longtime Tallahassee Community College president Bill Law has put his name in the hat to run St. Petersburg College after Carl Kuttler leaves.

TCC officials hope he doesn't get the job.

"We obviously would like to have Dr. Law as long as he is able to serve in this position," Board of Trustees chairwoman Karen Moore told the Tallahassee Democrat.

Law told his board that he had not applied to any other jobs, and he would not seek others if the SPC position

doesn't come his way. But St. Pete College, with its multiple campuses, offers a professional challenge he hasn't yet tackled.

TCC trustee Bill Hebrock told the Democrat that he's concerned about losing Law, but he's not yet worried.

"When he does leave, we'll do our job and find another diamond in the rough, another president of world-class caliber," he said. "And that's exactly what Bill Law is."

Film Festival vows to survive hard times

By Mark Hinson

DEMOCRAT SENIOR WRITER

"We thought the purse stings were tight last year — well, this year the purse strings are even tighter. But we're heading forward anyway."

That's how Tallahassee Film Festival special events coordinator Kim McShane summed up things during a party to rally sponsors Wednesday night at Tantra Lounge at Fusion Cafe. The third annual Tallahassee Film Festival is slated for April 8 to 11 in various venues around the city.

While the economic slump has hit hard in every sector of business and entertainment, someone apparently forgot to tell independent filmmakers.

"Last year we got 140 submissions — short films, features, animation — and 75 were selected," McShane said. "At this point, we already have 150 submissions."

Filmmakers have until Jan. 7 to enter their works. For more information, visit <http://tallahasseeilmfestival.com/call-for-entries>.

The 2010 Tallahassee Film Festival also will include a free outdoor screening downtown, educational panels and the popular 48 Hour Film Contest.

The 48 Hour competition gives amateurs and professionals one weekend to write, cast, shoot and edit a five-minute short film on a miniscule budget. The mini-movies are posted on the Tallahassee Democrat's Tallahassee.com Web site and readers are invited to vote for their favorite.

"We got 80,000 hits on the first day last (spring)," 48 Hour Film Contest director and Tallahassee Community College multimedia professor Carlos Miranda said. "We hope we can surpass that number of entries and viewers."

"The festival is a community project and community endeavor and we need everyone to embrace it," Mary Brogan Museum director and Film Festival vice chair Chucha Barber said. "We also want to make this the sexiest and coolest event in Tallahassee."

The sponsorship party was attended by Florida State film dean Frank Patterson, Torchlight Program founder and film distributor Paul Cohen, FAMU professor and filmmaker Ken Jones, Seven Days of Opening Nights director Steve MacQueen, Rep. Michelle Rehwinkel Vasilinda, D-Tallahassee, and Mike Pate, who is Florida program director for the Knight Foundation and former publisher of the Democrat.

An all-access pass to the three-day 2010 Tallahassee Film Festival will cost \$20.

"That's a lot of joy for \$20," McShane said.

Jobs built on federal stimulus slow in coming to Treasure Coast; more projected after new year

By Jim Turner

The economic stimulus package was promoted last winter as a \$250 million boost to the Treasure Coast's economy, bringing New Deal-style job relief to thousands hurting from the region's dependence upon the depressed housing market.

So far, the equivalent of 64.5 full-time jobs have been created in the three-county region.

The federal government's Web site — recovery.gov — reported that as of Nov. 23, \$197.46 million has reached Indian, St. Lucie and Martin counties from the \$787 billion American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009.

Local employment officials say the job numbers will grow as the larger projects such as construction of the Indian Street Bridge get under way in the first part of next year, while the current totals are slightly skewed because of reporting requirements.

"Right now a lot of the city and county governments haven't even started their stimulus projects," said Gwenda Thompson, president of Workforce Solutions of the Treasure Coast. "I'm assuming the majority of the hiring will take place after the first of the year."

Through October, Workforce Solutions has reported that jobs had been created for 231 individuals.

The discrepancy in job totals is due to federal reporting guidelines, said Cheryl Miller, the Workforce's chief financial officer.

Many of the local jobs did not begin until June, yet the federal government requires the hours for all stimulus workers to be based upon the overall hours that could have been worked since March 20, 2009, Miller said.

The Workforce numbers are as of late October. The private, nonprofit Florida corporation, which has received \$4.8 million in stimulus dollars to help in training and placing people, is expected to update its monthly stimulus numbers next week.

As for the new workers reported by the federal government, many are percentages of saved jobs, with the money helping to pay salaries of existing workers.

At Treasure Coast Community Health in Fellsmere, six jobs are listed as having been created. However, after stating that an additional dentist was added in July and two others retained, the new positions are described as: 0.6 of a full-time dental hygienist, 0.6 of a full-time dental assistant and 0.6 of a full-time receptionist.

The \$15.7 million project to add a lane in each direction in the western part of State Road 70 in St. Lucie County from mile marker 5.9 to 10.2, has created four jobs.

Martin County's ongoing oyster bed restoration efforts in the St. Lucie and Loxahatchee rivers has employed 84 people, from day labor to marine scientists, in the three months since it began, said county Coastal Engineer Kathy Fitzpatrick. However, because they are not all working full time, the total hours come to the equivalent of 15.6 full-time employees, according to recovery.gov.

"You have different people doing different things, they take all of the hours that have been worked and divided them by all the hours in the quarter to come up with how many jobs," Fitzpatrick said. "They're trying to find some way of portraying what is happening that is consistent across all the projects. I don't know if there is any good way of doing it, cause in some ways you're getting something that is consistent but it may not represent what is actually happening on that project."

At the Indian Street Bridge, once expected to create 3,500 jobs but now projected at 2,000, work on the \$72 million structure continues its slow pace.

The bridge — awaiting U.S. District Judge Jose Martinez's ruling if a temporary restraining order should be put in place pending any decisions on Palm City resident Odias Smith's federal lawsuit against the span — has generated just one job: Kevin Stepanick's.

Stepanick sits in a Palm City office building off of Martin Downs Boulevard. His firm has rented the first floor of the building, but at the moment every desk sits empty, except his.

"Oh it's exciting knowing you're the one getting it all

Jobs built on federal stimulus....

continued

together at the beginning," said Stepanick, project administrator for the future Indian Street Bridge that would become a second crossing between Stuart and Palm City.

Over the next few weeks he plans to hire an office staff. But with the bridge still in its design phase, he said the construction jobs may not come together until next spring.

"April, May, possibly earlier, but that's where it sits right now," said Stepanick.

Opponents of the stimulus point to the slow pace of job growth as a sign the strategy's not working.

"I think it's an absolute failure," said U.S. Rep. Tom Rooney, R-Tequesta. "The stimulus was passed under the guise of keeping unemployment under 8 percent. And here we are nationally it's over 10 percent and in Florida and in parts of my district, St. Lucie County, it's north of 15 percent."

The county's jobless rate dropped to 14.7 percent in October, down from 15.3 percent in September, while the Treasure Coast rate stands at 11.2 percent.

Opponents even criticize the government's Web site, redesigned at a cost of \$18 million and fraught with inaccuracies. The Web site includes six fictitious congressional districts in Florida tied to jobs that don't exist.

"They can't even get the simple things right, and we're supposed to have the confidence on how the rest of the stimulus is being spent," said Rooney.

The majority of the 74 Treasure Coast projects listed on recovery.gov — including the big job creators of the Indian Street Bridge in Martin County and the widening of S.R. 70 in St. Lucie County — are stated as having yet to begin or are less than 50 percent complete.

Meanwhile, not all the money previously designated as bound for the Treasure Coast — such as \$600,000 in Pell Grants to students at Hobe Sound Bible School and Fort Pierce Beauty Academy or the \$3.5 million for the Treasure Coast wide Neighborhood Stabilization Programs — is directly listed as landing in the Treasure Coast on the Web site that was designed to showcase the effectiveness of the recovery act.

Martin County oyster restoration efforts can be found as separate projects on the site, once with the full \$4,024,969 price tag, and again as a \$4,019,087 CSA International project. CSA International is the county's subcontractor on the project.

Also one project pinpointed in St. Lucie County on recovery.gov is for money heading to Leon County — \$104,800 through an AmeriCorps Recovery Grant for [Tallahassee Community College](#).

Bryan Garner of WPTV NewsChannel 5 contributed to this report.

US House OKs \$12M in local earmarks for defense

By Bart Jansen

DEMOCRAT WASHINGTON BUREAU

WASHINGTON — Tallahassee institutions would get more than \$12 million in defense projects under a bill the House approved Wednesday.

The Senate must still vote on the \$636.3 billion spending measure to fund the Pentagon, which is expected within days. But the Senate cannot change the bill because it is a conference report and approval is expected.

The bill provides a 3.4-percent pay increase for Defense Department employees, \$29 billion for health care and \$104 billion for procurement.

Among the Florida provisions, the bill includes \$4.8 million for Florida A&M University to provide the military with new ways to detect and trace improvised explosive devices. The provision was requested by Rep. Allen Boyd, D-Monticello; Sen. Bill Nelson, D-Fla.; and others.

The bill also includes two provisions for Florida State University: \$4 million to research the energy-delivery technologies on Navy ships and \$3.2 million to minimize the energy consumption and capital spending on large-scale power systems in the military.

[Tallahassee Community College's](#) Manufacturing and Industrial Technology Center would get \$400,000 to train workers to service military technology.

"North Florida's universities and colleges serve as a critical hub for developing next-generation defense technologies that keep our brave men and women in uniform safe when they are on the front lines," Boyd said. "I am extraordinarily proud that this federal funding will allow our region to continue its tradition of improving, enhancing and expanding our nation's security efforts."

Additional Facts

EARMARKS for tallahassee

The spending bill the House approved Wednesday contains these provisions for the Tallahassee area:

\$4.8 million for Florida A&M University to provide the military with new ways to detect and trace improvised explosive devices, requested by Rep. Allen Boyd, D-Monticello; Sen. Bill Nelson, D-Fla.; and others.

\$4 million for Florida State University to research energy delivery technologies on Navy ships, requested by Boyd and Nelson.

\$3.2 million for FSU to minimize the energy consumption and capital spending on large-scale power systems in the military, requested by Boyd and Nelson.

\$400,000 for [Tallahassee Community College's](#) Manufacturing and Industrial Technology Center to train workers to service military technology.

Other projects that Boyd and Nelson requested funding for:

\$4 million to help the Air Force derive half its fuel from non-petroleum products.

TCC tuition-free for state workers

By Angeline J. Taylor
DEMOCRAT STAFF WRITER

Tallahassee Community College will continue to offer State of Florida employees tuition-free classes when the spring semester gets under way in January.

TCC administrators say that full-time state employees can take up to six credit hours per semester on "a space available basis."

At Florida A&M and Florida State universities, tuition-free classes are only available for the respective schools' employees. Those employees must work full time and receive an annual salary.

However, at all institutions, the program does not cover the cost for books, lab fees, late application fees and some student service fees.

"TCC is proud to offer state employees the opportunity to further their education free of charge, whether it is to enhance their skill set, for personal development or just for personal interest," said Sherri Rowland, TCC's dean of enrollment management.

Rowland said Web-based and remedial courses are also available under the program.

FAMU Provost Cynthia Hughes Harris said, "(The program) allows our employees to take advantage of bettering themselves. It allows them to see a future beyond where they are now."

Registration for the spring 2010 semester starts on Jan. 4 for TCC, FSU and FAMU.

Tech@Night returns in January

DEMOCRAT STAFF WRITER

When Tallahassee Community College's popular Tech@Night series kicks off its sixth semester in January, it will do so with a new lineup of workshops.

The "My PC" series, available through a partnership with Microsoft, will be offered Tuesdays beginning Jan. 12 in TCC's Center for Workforce Development. It begins with "My PC: Getting Started with Windows 7" and continues through March 2 with the fourth installment of "Introduction to Windows 7."

Tech@Night offers low-cost, short-term training in multimedia, current applications and upcoming computer technologies. Since its 2007 launch at the TCC Capitol Center, Tech@Night has added sessions at TCC's main campus, at the Gadsden and Wakulla service centers, and the Florida Public Safety Institute.

The workshops take place from 6 to 9 p.m. each Tuesday. The cost is \$25 per night. Brochures, schedules and course descriptions are available online at www.tcc.fl.edu/tech@night. For details, call 201-8760 or send an e-mail to techatnight@tcc.fl.edu.

Make Your New Year's Resolution **TODAY**

*Complete your degree online through Tallahassee Community College.
From admission to graduation...all from the convenience of a computer.*

*Get your degree on your time. **Anytime. Anywhere.***

TCC offers over **150 online courses** in a variety of degree programs.



The College is closed until January 4, but you can **apply** and **register anytime online** at www.GoToTCC.com

TCC expanding its allied health-care classes

By Angeline J. Taylor
DEMOCRAT STAFF WRITER

Tallahassee Community College's allied health-care classes have expanded to keep up with the country's demand in the field.

TCC is offering training as a nursing assistant, pharmacy technician and office worker starting in the spring. TCC officials say the courses are designed to prepare students to enter the rapidly growing, well-paying health-care workforce.

"As demand for health-care services increases, so do job opportunities," said John Chapin, director of the Center for Workforce Development. "TCC is dedicated to offering students the most up-to-date health education training on the market."

The allied-health courses start in February, and prospective students should register by Jan. 15.

A medical front-office program spans from Feb. 3-24 and requires 28 hours of instruction. A medical-office specialist program also requires 28 class hours and takes place from April 7-28. Employees in either field can earn an average salary of \$30,000, according to the U.S. Department of Labor.

Prospective nursing assistants need 124 class hours; classes start Feb. 4. The average salary for a nursing assistant is \$25,000.

Pharmacy technicians work under the supervision of a licensed pharmacist. They make about \$10-\$15 an hour depending on training and experience. The program requires about 1,050 class hours over four consecutive terms starting Feb. 1.

Health care is expected to generate about 3.2 million new jobs between 2009-2018, largely because of the aging populace, according to the Labor Department. That's the biggest gain of any job sector.

Our Opinion: Free classes for state workers is a win-win situation

In the summer of 2007, Florida State University ended its long practice of granting tuition waivers to state employees in classes not otherwise filled by regular tuition-paying undergraduates.

Many thousands of the men and women who carry out and enforce all state programs, services and responsibilities had taken advantage of this excellent educational bonus and significant employee benefit. Its abolition as part of budget-cutting demands on the public universities was another low blow to state employees, occurring in the same year the Legislature started its now three-year run of giving no raises to state workers, and keeping them dead last in the nation in a per-capita ranking of government salaries.

While FSU offered the greatest opportunities for classes that would help the state work force improve educational standing, skills and ability to advance, Tallahassee Community College has taken the baton and will again in January offer up to six credit hours per semester tuition-free on a space-available basis. The offerings include some Web-based and remedial courses as well as general classes for professional or personal development.

Our Opinion....

continued

At FSU and Florida A&M University, tuition-free classes are available only for full-time, annual-salaried employees of their respective schools.

None of the three institutions cover the cost of books, lab fees, late application fees and some student service fees that might apply.

While it is understandable that the universities are looking in every corner for places to save money, the sweeping removal of the undergraduate tuition waivers is too extreme.

Reinstate the program and let the determination be made one class at a time. If there is an empty seat or two in any given class — and certainly not all will be packed to the max in every instance — let interested state employees have the chance to fill them.

After three years of no pay raises for state employees, this would be a modest but meaningful incentive and career motivation that would cost taxpayers no additional money at all.

Tallahassee Democrat - December 29, 2009

Jobs, 2010 style

Reinvent, retrain, learn what's hot

If colleges were once considered the home of liberal arts education, today they are work horses in the economy, not only in their research arms and the very fact that they are large employers, but also in their attention to developing the workforce.

We are reminded of this again during this critical time in Florida, and the nation, where job searches can take on a rather desperate air, particularly for those with no particular skills.

[Tallahassee Community College](#) is addressing this quickly and directly by expanding its allied health-care classes, offering training in such fields as nursing assistant, pharmacy technician and medical-office workers. Health care is one of the exceptions in today's economy: a rapidly growing and well-paying field — if you are prepared. Health care is expected to generate millions of new jobs, largely because of the aging population, according to the Labor Department.

The TCC courses will start in February and prospective students should register by Jan. 15. The medical office courses require 28 hours of instruction; the nursing assistants and pharmacy technicians are more intensive and detailed information about them can be obtained online at www.tcc.fl.edu or by calling (850) 922-5391.

In another occupational area, but one important to rural areas surrounding the capital city is the workshop for small farms that is being hosted by Florida A&M University's Statewide Small Farm Program from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. Jan. 2 at Crescent Moon Organic Farm in Sopchoppy, 145 Crescent Moon Trail.

Author, educator and sustainable agriculture expert John E. Ikerd of the University of Missouri will be the keynote speaker in a program called "Eco Farms are the Viable Solution." He will focus on the outlook for small farms and also the opportunities he sees in emerging markets.

Jobs, 2010 style....

continued

"I want to encourage people locally that they are part of a national and international movement in food production," he told the Democrat. "To me, sustainability is about going back to the roots of organic farming. It is about permanence."

This workshop will cost \$20, which includes lunch. To register, please go to FAMU.Register@gmail.com or call (850) 412-5260.

Both opportunities show the possibilities for reinventing ones work life in some cases and reconsidering in others how to go about earning a living and becoming a part of the economy that is, in fact, moving forward.

WCTV - December 29, 2009

Tech@Night Starts The Spring 2010 Semester With Expanded Schedule

The workshops will take place from 6-9 p.m. each Tuesday. The cost is \$25 per night.

News Release from Tallahassee Community College

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. –

Tallahassee Community College's popular Tech@Night series is growing!

When Tech@Night kicks off its sixth semester in January 2010, it will do so with a new series of workshops. The "My PC" series, available through a partnership with Microsoft, will be offered on Tuesdays beginning January 12 in TCC's Center for Workforce Development.

The series kicks off with "My PC: Getting Started with Windows 7" and continues through March 2 with the fourth installment of "Introduction to Windows 7."

The workshops will take place from 6-9 p.m. each Tuesday. The cost is \$25 per night.

Tech@Night offers low-cost, short-term training workshops in multimedia, current technology and upcoming computer technologies. Since its September 2007 launch at the TCC Capitol Center, Tech@Night has added workshops on TCC's main campus, as well as the College's Gadsden and Wakulla County service centers and the Florida Public Safety Institute.

To date, more than 2,000 students have participated in TCC's Tech@Night workshops.

To register for the "My PC" series or other workshops offered through Tech@Night, log on to www.tcc.fl.edu/eaglenet and use Tech@Night as the keyword in the search field.

Brochures, schedules and course descriptions are available online at www.tcc.fl.edu/tech@night.

For additional information, please call (850) 201-8760 or email techatnight@tcc.fl.edu.

Tech@Night, "My PC Series"

- January 12, My PC: Getting Started with Windows 7
- January 19, Connected families workshop
- January 26, Digital photo editing for beginners
- February 2, Creative photo slideshows
- February 9, Introduction to Windows 7 (1)
- February 16, Introduction to Windows 7 (2)
- February 23, Introduction to Windows 7 (3)
- March 2, Introduction to Windows 7 (4)



Get training for in-demand jobs in health care

At TCC, train to become a:

- Pharmacy Tech** — starts Feb. 1
- Medical Front Office** — starts Feb. 3
- Nursing Assistant** — starts Feb. 4
- Medical Office Specialist** — starts April 7

Apply by January 15, 2010
Visit www.tcc.fl.edu/ahcourses or call (850)201-8760

Financial Aid available for Pharmacy Tech



Get training for in-demand jobs in health care

At TCC, train to become a:

- Pharmacy Tech** • starting Feb. 1
- Medical Front Office Employee** • starting Feb. 3
- Nursing Assistant** • starting Feb. 4
- Medical Office Specialist** • starting April 7

Apply by January 15, 2010
Visit www.tcc.fl.edu/ahcourses or call (850)201-8760

Financial Aid available for Pharmacy Tech

St. Pete College cutting list of president candidates to 8

By Lindsay Peterson

TAMPA BAY TRIBUNE

A search committee at St. Petersburg College plans to meet Thursday to pick eight finalists from the 21 people who have applied to replace retiring President Carl Kuttler.

Former St. Petersburg Mayor Rick Baker is one of the 21 applicants. They also include William D. Law Jr., president of Tallahassee Community College; B. Kaye Walter, a vice president at Valencia Community College in Orlando; and college and university officials from across the country.

Kuttler announced his retirement in June after 31 years as the St. Petersburg College president. He is paid \$388,000 a year. The college has an enrollment of about 65,000.

Originally, 48 people applied, but 27 either didn't meet the criteria or dropped out.

The eight to be named on Thursday will be asked to send eight- to-10-minute videos to the search consultant, Jeff Hockaday of Sanford, N.C. With Hockaday's advice, the college search committee will pick three or four candidates to come to Florida for personal interviews, said Mike O'Keeffe, vice president for institutional advancement.

The board of trustees is expected to pick a new president by March or April, O'Keeffe said.

Tallahassee Democrat - January 7, 2010

Student veterans experience problems with new GI Bill

By Angeline J. Taylor

DEMOCRAT STAFF WRITER

Bryan Day prepared for the spring semester at Florida State University even though he wasn't sure if his fall fees would be covered.

The Army veteran paid for fees and other expenses on credit cards in the hope that federal dollars requested for books and tuition would get to him before 2010 started. His was a hope shared by thousands of veterans nationwide who take advantage of the GI Bill.

Originally, the GI Bill was established in 1944 for returning World War II veterans hoping to go to college. A Post 9/11 GI Bill went into effect Aug. 1. The updated version covers tuition, fees, housing and books.

With the old GI Bill, students received a check for a set amount designed to cover tuition. Those who signed up for the new GI Bill are being caught up in a processing glitch.

"They either got paid or they didn't," Cheryl Goodson, FSU's coordinator of veterans' affairs, said about student veterans awaiting federal dollars.

new GI bill...

continued

"I'd like to find a way to solve this," Day said about the processing slowdown.

Veterans Affairs Department officials said the number of claims to be processed in late December was fewer than 5,000 — down from tens of thousands — and the goal was to have all claims processed by the end of the year.

Delorise Page-Robinson, Tallahassee Community College's coordinator of veterans affairs, said she has seen an improvement from December. She said she received about 66 student checks during the winter break. Now, "a little more than 30" student veterans are waiting to have their claims processed.

Page-Robinson believes that the communication between the Department of Defense and the Department of Veterans Affairs was at a crawl.

The Department of Defense is charged with confirming that each student is a veteran. That information then goes to the Department of Veterans Affairs for the claim to be processed, she said.

"It was taking so long to even tell (veterans) they were eligible," Page-Robinson said. "I think that was the slowdown — the processing office got overwhelmed."

Said VA spokeswoman Katie Roberts, "We continue to work on a daily basis with schools to make sure that no student is denied attending class as a result of delayed tuition payments. It's a top priority for the VA to make sure that students can focus on their studies rather than their bank accounts."

Page-Robinson and Goodson, FSU's coordinator of veterans affairs, said both institutions offer deferments to make sure students stay in class while claims are processed. Day was unable to see his grades at the end of the fall semester because his fees had not been paid.

However, he did receive a \$3,200 "catch-up" check within the last week. He's still owed at least \$200 for books, he said.

Page-Robinson said those checks are to help veterans who have been waiting for rent, books and tuition.

"We were hurt but (Veterans Affairs) are getting on the ball," she said.

Associated Press contributed to this report.

TCC's Bill Law still in the running for St. Petersburg job

By Angeline J. Taylor
DEMOCRAT STAFF WRITER

Tallahassee Community College President Bill Law has been named to a short list of candidates vying for the presidency of St. Petersburg College.

Law was told Thursday afternoon that he made the list of "semi-finalists." He served as an administrator of that college in the early 1980s.

In December, when Law applied for the job, he told TCC employees that "a number of former colleagues and community leaders contacted me to urge my candidacy. I agreed to take a look." Thursday, he called being named a semifinalist "rewarding."

"That makes me feel that the things we're doing at TCC are recognized," said Law, who has been president at TCC since 2001.

Patty Jones, St. Petersburg College's vice president of human resources, said the committee didn't rank the 21 candidates vying for the job. The 13-member committee took a ballot count. Law and Thomas Keegan, president of Peninsula College in Port Angeles, Wash., received the support of the full committee.

Originally, the committee — which will meet again in early February — sought to shorten the list from 21 to eight candidates. However, there was a tie for eighth place, Jones said

"This is really where it takes off," Law said about the search process. "What they are looking for is the right fit."

The list of semifinalists includes: Law; Keegan; former St. Petersburg Mayor Rick Baker; Lance Bolton, president of Northeastern Junior College in Colorado; Brad Bartel, president of Fort Lewis College in Colorado; Joseph Bragin, provost of Missouri Western State University in Missouri; Richard Federinko, senior vice chancellor of Troy University in Alabama; Paula Gastenveld, president assistant to the chancellor of the Kentucky Community and Technical College System and B. Kaye Walter, chief learning officer of Valencia Community College in Orlando.

Florida Trend - January 8, 2010

Northwest Fla., Panhandle Business Briefs - Jan. 2010

by Charlotte Crane

TALLAHASSEE —

» [Tallahassee Community College](#) is creating an Advanced Manufacturing Training Center that will provide job training and foster job creation in dual-use technologies developed for the military and adaptable for commercial and consumer use.

TCC To Host MLK Breakfast

Reporter: Press Release

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. –

Tallahassee Community College will host its first-ever Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., commemorative breakfast from 8:30-10 a.m., Tuesday, January 12.

The event will take place in the Student Union Ballroom.

The breakfast will celebrate the theme “In the Celebration of the Legacy.”

Dr. Nikki Giovanni, world-renowned poet, writer, commentator, activist and educator will be the guest speaker.

Giovanni’s honors and awards have been steady and plentiful throughout her career. The recipient of some 25 honorary degrees, she has been named Woman of the Year by Mademoiselle Magazine, The Ladies Home Journal and Ebony Magazine. She was tapped for the Ohio Women’s Hall of Fame and named an Outstanding Woman of Tennessee. Giovanni has also received Governor’s Awards from both Tennessee and Virginia and was the first recipient of the Rosa L. Parks Woman of Courage Award.

TCC students, faculty and staff are invited to attend.

Tallahassee Democrat - January 11, 2010

Poet Nikki Giovanni to speak at TCC’s MLK breakfast

Reporter: Press Release

World-renowned poet Nikki Giovanni will serve as keynote speaker at Tallahassee Community College’s breakfast honoring Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

The breakfast takes place Tuesday in the college’s ballroom in the student union from 8:30 a.m.-10:30 a.m. Faculty, staffers and students are invited to attend.

Giovanni is known as a poet, writer, commentator, activist and educator.

Return to Tallahassee.com for more details.

WCTV - January 12, 2010

TCC’s Martin Luther King Breakfast

Reporter: Alyssa Orange

Martin Luther King was a man that stood for what he believed in... Now Tallahassee Community College is honoring him with their first Martin Luther King Breakfast.

Students, Faculty and staff gathered in the TCC ballroom to honor one of America’s greatest civil rights figures.

Guests were welcomed, and then given a delicious breakfast of eggs, pancakes, fruit and bacon.

The TCC Gospel Choir sang, and other honorary guests spoke on Martin Luther King and his legacy. The Keynote Speaker was world renowned poet, writer and professor at Virginia Tech, Nikki Giovanni.

Organizers say this year’s breakfast was altogether a great success for TCC, and they hope to be able to host another one next year.

Annual Day of Dialogue to Engage Students

Reporter: Press Release

EMAIL ADDRESS: NEWS@WCTV.TV

CITY OF TALLAHASSEE NEWS RELEASE:

Celebrating its 13th year of engaging the community to openly discuss race relations and diversity, the City of Tallahassee is once again sponsoring the Day of Dialogue on Race, Culture and Human Relations. This year's Day of Dialogue event takes place on Wednesday, Jan. 13.

In the past, the City has hosted this event on the observed Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday, which falls on Monday, Jan. 18, this year. Changing the date this year has allowed the City to join forces with Leon County Schools to create a Day of Dialogue that focuses on the community's youth.

180 eighth grade students from Leon County middle schools will attend this year's celebration at The Mary Brogan Museum of Art and Science, 350 South Duval Street. Utilizing the Kinsey Collection currently on display at the Museum, students will be able to see historic and contemporary African American art and artifacts that bring to light the extraordinary triumphs and accomplishments of African Americans. The exhibit is sure to generate conversation on overcoming hardships, civil rights and ways to make a positive difference in the community by applying the principles of Dr. King.

The Day of Dialogue will begin with a general assembly at the [Tallahassee Community College](#) Capitol Center, located on the lower level of the Mary Brogan Museum. To accommodate the large gathering, students have been divided into two groups. Group one (90 students) will arrive at the museum at 9 a.m. The second group of 90 students will arrive at the TCC Capitol Center at 10 a.m. for the general assembly. Leon County School Superintendent Jackie Pons and City officials are scheduled to speak during the welcoming of each group.

After the general assembly, each group will be split into two 45-student groups. The first group will tour the Kinsey Exhibit while the other participates in a Kinsey theme exploration class, developed and led by museum educators. The exploration class will entail discussions of several pieces from the collection and their impact on the students. The history teachers will serve as tour guides. At the conclusion of their respective events, the groups

will switch places, ensuring every student receives the full experience.

At the conclusion of the exploration class and tour, the students will reassemble for a group discussion. Topics will include the connection between the works of Dr. King and the Kinsey Collection and what the students have been motivated to do after this event. This is keeping with the Day of Dialogue's mission to encourage Tallahassee citizens to interact with diverse people through honest and open discussion.

"This year's Day of Dialogue concept is helping us reach the next generation of responsible citizens, activists, politicians, thinkers and creators. We want to expose them to this rich part of American history and allow them to think critically about the impact that past issues have on our society and how those issues intersect with their lives today," said Sharon Ofuani, director of the City's Equity and Workforce Development Department. "Wednesday's event will permit an open discussion of those ideas and concepts. The students of today are the leaders of tomorrow." Ofuani's department coordinates the Day of Dialogue event on behalf of the City.

The Day of Dialogue is held under the auspices of the Mayor's Initiative on Race, Culture and Human Relations and provides a forum to experience the diverse views and cultures of others. For more information, please call the City's Equity and Workforce Development Department at 891-8290, TDD at 711, or visit online at [Talgov.com](#).

Poet Nikki Giovanni challenges TCC students

By Angeline J. Taylor
DEMOCRAT STAFF WRITER

7:40 P.M. UPDATE

No topic was off limits Tuesday at Tallahassee Community College's first commemorative breakfast honoring Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

World renowned poet Nikki Giovanni, 66, served up a straight-forward dose of everything from veterans' rights, health care and religion to the country's civil rights era. She shared her heart-tugging relationship with trailblazer Rosa Parks. Then, Giovanni ended her speech to more than 150 students, faculty and staffers by channeling King to issue students a personal challenge.

"Martin Luther King ... raised the question: Shall we continue," Giovanni said in reference to King asking whether the 1955 Montgomery, Ala., bus boycott should be continued. "And continue is a key word. Everyone said Martin Luther King started the boycott. No he didn't. But he stood up and he articulated. And he did not bend. He did not bow. He did not back down. For the rest of his life he stood for something and continued to ask us all: shall we continue? And this is the challenge that all you young people have."

The words of Giovanni, who teaches English at Virginia Tech in Blacksburg, Va., stirred the passions of many in attendance.

TCC student Brittney Lightsey, 21, from Detroit, called Giovanni her favorite writer.

Lightsey added, "She's amazing. I really adore her. She gives the audience all — no matter what she thinks they will think of her. She just says what's on her heart."

Faculty member Shauna Smith said, "Dr. Giovanni reminded us today. We have got to stand for something. Don't let your fear of not succeeding keep you from not trying."

TCC's Division of Student Affairs paid \$11,000 for Giovanni to serve as keynote speaker out of student activity and service fees.

3:17 P.M. UPDATE

More than 150 people attended the first commemorative breakfast celebrating Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., at Tallahassee Community College.

The two-hour program included a buffet breakfast complete with a performance by TCC's gospel choir. But the keynote speaker created the most buzz.

World renowned poet Nikki Giovanni addressed the group of students, faculty and staffers at TCC. Giovanni offered a rich history lesson including her personal experience with Rosa Parks and her takeaways from King. But before Giovanni shared her historical perspective, she offered her opinions on various current events.

She offered her belief in President Barack Obama: "I know Barack Obama was elected president and I'm happy. He's better looking than most of them. It's so nice to have something good to look at. And I think he's smarter than the average bear."

She called Obama a hypocrite: "Right now we have a man who accepted a Nobel Peace Prize which was also given to the man that we are now honoring, who when he accepted knew that he was sending 30,000 boys and girls off to their deaths. He should not have accepted. Barack had no right to accept a peace prize when he's conducting two and now three wars. Somehow, the hypocrisy is not working. I'm sincere about that. And so, hopefully you're not going to be all that mad at me ... but if you are too bad."

On veterans' affairs: "We have to find veterans' benefits. I'm so disgusted with that! We actually have veterans who are homeless. We have veterans who can't feed their kids. They can't buy Christmas things. What kind of sense does that make?"

The Division of Student Affairs paid \$11,000 for Giovanni to come to TCC out of student activity and service fees.

Nikki Giovanni stops by TCC to honor greatest civil right's icons

Well-known author and poet Nikki Giovanni stopped by Tallahassee Community College to honor one of the nation's greatest civil right's icons.

Giovanni was the keynote speaker for the school's first commemorative breakfast, honoring Dr. Martin Luther King. More than 150 people packed into TCC's student union to hear the world-renowned poet who offered her thoughts and memories of the late civil rights leader and Rosa Parks, the woman whose refusal to give up her seat on a segregated city bus helped spark the Montgomery bus boycott of the 1950's.

Giovanni also offered her thoughts on other current events and President Barack Obama. And the celebrations for Dr. King continue January 13th Leon County commissioner Bill Proctor and the MLK foundation of Florida are hosting a celebration to observe Dr. King's birthday. It's happening at noon in the Leon County Courthouse North Rotunda.

TCC Fine Art Gallery

Reporter: Press Release

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. (January 12, 2010) – Tallahassee Community College's Fine Art Gallery will unveil "Harris Wiltshire: Culture and Politics" on Thursday, January 14.

The exhibit, featuring works by local artist, education and gallerist Harris Wiltshire, focuses on cultural and political evolution and the friction that often accompanies change.

To celebrate the opening of "Harris Wiltshire: Culture and Politics," the TCC Fine Art Gallery will honor the exhibit's contributor during a public reception on January 14 from 6:30 to 8 p.m.

The exhibit will be on display at TCC through Thursday, February 11, with the exception of January 18 when the College will be closed for the Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday.

Admission is free.

The Fine Art Gallery is located in the Fine & Performing Arts Center at Tallahassee Community College.