

# TALLAHASSEE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

*In the News*



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**June 17, 2011 - August 13, 2011**

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# Beth Shields Middle School Students Get Hands-On Exploration of Renewable Energy Technologies

PRLog (Press Release)

Jun 17, 2011 – FLATE (Florida Advanced Technological Education Center), the NSF (National Science Foundation) Center for excellence in high-tech manufacturing, in conjunction with the Hillsborough Community College South Shore campus, is organizing its first ever summer energy camp for students and Hillsborough County high school teachers. The camp will take place June 20-23 from 9-3 p.m. at HCC-South Shore Campus in Ruskin, FL, and is made possible through a grant from NSF. During the camp, 25 students from Beth Shields Middle School in Ruskin, currently enrolled in Hillsborough County's AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination) program, will learn many aspects of renewable energy technologies.

In day one, students will engage in hands-on activities that will introduce them to energy concepts including fossil fuels, its environmental impact, and the science of electricity generation. Hands-on activities will continue through days two, three and four where they will learn about solar cells, solar thermal, wind energy, environmental care, fuel-cells, home efficiency and ocean energy. The program is funded through FLATE and FESC (Florida Energy Systems Consortium) a consortium of Florida universities established by the Florida Legislature, and is part of a network of energy-related camps that are being offered simultaneously at [Tallahassee Community college](#), and Florida State College at Jacksonville. A professional development energy camp for Hillsborough County high school teachers will also be offered concurrently at the same location.

Dr. Marilyn Barger, executive director of FLATE says the Center's partnership with FESC is part of a statewide initiative to support industries in the existing and emerging energy sectors by defining the knowledge and skills required for their technician workforce. Since 2009, FLATE has been working with community colleges across

Florida to define curriculum standards for alternative energy that support industry needs. "With the industry support of the FESC Advisory Committee and their community outreach programs for energy efficiency, FLATE's partnerships with the Florida Department of Education, and the Banner Centers for Energy, Alternative Energy, Manufacturing and Construction we hope to build a comprehensive and cohesive educational and industry pathway for Florida's new energy workforce" Barger said.

For more information on the energy camp contact Jorge Monreal, project manager for FESC and lead camp instructor at 813.259.6587/monreal@fl-at.org. For information on FESC contact Dr. Marilyn Barger at 813.259.6578/barger@fl-ate.org.

FLATE is a National Science Foundation Regional Center of Excellence, committed to ensuring Florida has a well prepared workforce for advanced and emerging technologies. Created in 2004, FLATE is one of 39 Advanced Technological Education Centers in the United States funded by the National Science Foundation focused on improving science, technology, engineering, and mathematics education and training to meet the needs of American advanced technology industries. For more information visit [www.fl-ate.org](http://www.fl-ate.org)

FESC is a consortium of 11 Florida Universities legislatively created in 2008. The Consortium was charged to 'perform research and development on innovative energy systems that lead to alternative energy strategies, improved energy efficiencies, and expanded economic development for the state.' The FESC-FLATE partnership defines FLATE as FESC's Core Facility for community college technical workforce education development and deployment throughout the state. For more information visit [www.fl-ate.org/projects/fesc](http://www.fl-ate.org/projects/fesc), or [www.floridaenergy.ufl.edu](http://www.floridaenergy.ufl.edu).

## Big Bend & Florida News briefs

Workforce Plus is hosting a job fair for young people 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. today at the agency's location at 2525 S. Monroe St. The event, "Today's Youth, Tomorrow's Workforce – Youth Resource & Career Expo," will bring together employers, community organization representatives, educational providers, military recruiters and young people ages 16 to 21. The purpose is to give them information about jobs and other opportunities. The free event is sponsored by [Tallahassee Community College](#) and MGT of America.

**Tallahassee Democrat - June 18, 2011**

## Recycling list grows to include nearly all plastics

BY ASHLEY AMES  
DEMOCRAT STAFF WRITER

You don't have to worry about what sort of plastics you can recycle anymore — the list has just expanded to include almost all of them.

Starting now, all plastic containers that are 3 gallons or less — including yogurt cups, plastic caps and lids and butter tubs — can be tossed into the recycling bin along with glass, aluminum cans and cardboard, according to Leon County recycling coordinator Cyndy Brantley. Previously, plastics were limited to only jugs and bottles, she said. There is no additional cost.

Brantley said the change will take the hassle out of recycling. Basically, she said, if it's plastic, toss it in.

"The stress is gone," she said. "I think that everybody can get on board now."

The change came about after Sustainable Tallahassee, a nonprofit organization established through the Knight Creative Communities Institute, put together a group of concerned citizens, business representatives and city of Tallahassee and county staff to look at recycling issues. Also involved were Florida State University, Florida A&M University and [Tallahassee Community College](#).

"It became apparent that we had this opportunity to

increase our recycling at really no cost to the community," said Sharon Liggett, executive director of Sustainable Tallahassee. "It was just a great opportunity to expand the program."

Liggett hopes the expansion will get people to recycle more.

"If we can keep it here, if we can process it here, it's jobs for our local community," she said. "It's a cleaner environment. It's cleaner air. It's cleaner water."

The only plastics not being recycled are black plastics, such as the kind used to hold plants, plastic bags and containers that have held automotive fluid, pesticides or other hazardous materials, officials said.

City Commissioner Nancy Miller said the newly expanded program is cost-efficient and environmentally friendly. She also said as recycling efforts expand, less trash will go into landfills. Household trash from Leon County is shipped to a regional landfill in Jackson County.

County Commissioner Akin Akinyemi said the effort represents an opportunity to make strides toward building a more sustainable community.

## Campus Notes

### TCC earns national rankings

TCC has earned a national ranking in six different categories, according to a report released June 13 by Community College Week. The report had TCC No. 9 among the country's two-year institutions in the total number of associate degrees awarded during the 2009-10 academic year. According to the report, TCC awarded 2,872 associate degrees during the 2009-10 academic year, up 22.2 percent from 2008-09 (2,351) when it was 15th in Community College Week's rankings.

TCC earned a No. 4 ranking among two-year institutions in the number of associate degrees awarded to African-Americans. TCC also ranked 15th in the number of associate degrees awarded in the total minority category, making a significant jump from the 2010 report in which it was ranked 36th.

### Development Center helps county school district employees

TCC's Center for Workforce Development is partnering with Leon County Schools to offer professional and personal development workshops for school system personnel. The 2011 Summer Institute seeks to give school district employees an opportunity to enhance their skills and learn new topics. The concept of the Institute was inspired by employees' continuous desire for training and professional development opportunities. The courses were selected based on employees' needs and interests. Seats are limited for each workshop. For more information, call the Center for Workforce Development at (850) 201-8760 or e-mail [workforce@tcc.fl.edu](mailto:workforce@tcc.fl.edu).

**Tallahassee Democrat - June 18, 2011**

## Murdaugh refining how TCC operates

**BY DOUG BLACKBURN**

DEMOCRAT SENIOR WRITER

Jim Murdaugh is eager to fine-tune the way [Tallahassee Community College](#) operates.

TCC's president since October, Murdaugh has put together his first budget for the still-growing two-year school — a budget TCC's Board of Trustees is expected to approve later today.

Murdaugh said he learned during a two-day student summit he hosted in early March that the college can do a better job in key non-classroom areas, including advising and financial aid.

He intends to promote Barbara Sloan, vice president for academic affairs, to the newly created position of provost. One of her primary responsibilities will be making sure all aspects of the college are communicating with one another.

"I believe this budget will allow us to ensure that access leads to success," Murdaugh said. "Focusing on access without focusing on success is not doing anybody any favors."



Murdaugh also wants Sloan to monitor state and national trends so the college is ready to create new programs to train students for emerging jobs.

"We want to make sure we're nimble enough to meet new needs as they emerge," Sloan said.

It's critical that the college monitor its own performance, Murdaugh said. He is proposing an office of institutional effectiveness in order to better track student retention rates and other metrics.

"I think creating a culture in which we use data to make good decisions is critically important. I'm not a data geek," Murdaugh said, "but we need to know which of our strategies are really working."

## Murdaugh refining how TCC operates....

*continued*

The college also is developing its distance learning program. Not all students will do well with online classes, and not all faculty members are well suited for teaching them, Murdaugh noted. He wants TCC to develop diagnostic tools for students so they can determine if they should try distance learning.

"We want to provide programs that have market value," Murdaugh said. "Degrees that are tickets to nowhere have no interest for me."

Neither Murdaugh nor Sloan was surprised by what they heard at the student summit, though it did inspire them to make changes at TCC.

Sloan said, "We know that the main reason students don't stick with a school is because they don't feel a connection or they don't get a connection. We know intellectually that's where the work needs to happen. Hearing it from the students and our constituents in the community helped sharpen our focus."

## TCC trustees approve budget, tour Ghazvini center

BY DOUG BLACKBURN  
DEMOCRAT SENIOR WRITER

It's unlikely it will ever be dubbed a Taj Mahal knock-off.

But make no mistake, the new, \$31 million [Tallahassee Community College](#) Ghazvini Center for Healthcare Education is an impressive yet pragmatic building.

Located on Surgeons Drive behind Tallahassee Memorial HealthCare, TCC's 88,000-square-foot facility will be home to about 430 students when classes begin Aug. 29. A grand opening is scheduled for Sept. 8.

TCC's Board of Trustees held its monthly meeting Monday at the Ghazvini center, spending far more time reviewing the three-story building than discussing the college's \$63 million budget for the coming school year — which trustees approved without dissent.

The only aspects of TCC's health-care education that won't be relocating to the new building are the two programs in dental health. Barbara Sloan, vice president for academic affairs, said it was impractical to move the dental hygiene and dental assistance training across town.

The Ghazvini center — still not officially completed

— will be home to 15 full-time faculty and as many as 50 adjuncts. It has a multi-purpose library, or learning commons, similar in purpose to what's on the main campus. It also features six simulations rooms, six classrooms, 13 laboratories and additional space for expansion, plus a 296-seat auditorium.

Alice Nied, dean of health care professions at TCC, led President Jim Murdaugh and the trustees on a tour of the center following a power-point presentation.

"We needed to be in the middle of town," Nied said about the building's location. "This is where health care is."

The center was built using five years of state capital funding. It is named after the Ghazvini family in honor of their donation of about 30 acres to TCC, located near Shearer Road and Lake Shore Drive and valued at almost \$2 million.

"All of us at the college are very proud and very excited about the Ghazvini center," Murdaugh said. "This was a total team effort involving many people, going back to (former president) Dr. (Bill) Law. This is simply a great addition to TCC."

## Gulf Coast Impacts Students and Community Through Grant Opportunities

By Ken McVay

Grants are essential in these uncertain economic times, and Gulf Coast State College continues to monitor its current grants as well as seek out new grant sources. In 2009-2010, Gulf Coast was awarded \$4.4 million in grants, and in 2010-2011, those awards increased to \$5.4 million. Each quarter, grant project leaders present brief overviews of the impact of external funding to enhance critical areas of the College. Dr. Jim Kerley, GCSC President, encourages faculty and staff to keep up their important work in securing alternative sources of funding to the institution. Recent key accomplishments and highlights include:

The Returning Students Program, funded by the State of Florida through the Agency for Workforce Innovation (AWI), with an annual budget of \$71,000, serves 150 economically disadvantaged adults over the age of 35. In 2010-2011, 30 participants completed their academic programs, and 22 were placed in jobs. Key services include student counseling, workshops, a book loaning program, referrals to additional services and academic tracking. Program success was reinforced by the results of a very successful monitoring visit from AWI.

The College Reach-Out Program (CROP) a consortium project lead by [Tallahassee Community College](#), is funded by the State of Florida through the Florida Department of Education. Gulf Coast serves 175 at risk students in Bay, Gulf, and Franklin counties with a budget of \$52,000. Staff and volunteers provide tutoring, mentoring, Saturday workshops and leadership opportunities to encourage the students to persevere academically and enroll in postsecondary education.

Gulf Coast State College provides regional One Stop Services at the Workforce Center funded through the Gulf Coast Workforce Board, and continues to successfully administer the Re-employment and Eligibility Assessment

Program as mandated by the Agency for Workforce Innovation. The Workforce Center has performed in the top quartile for the State of Florida and processed a total of 1,986 claimants through March 31, 2011.

The Veterans Business Outreach Center (VBOC), funded by the Small Business Administration (SBA), serves veteran entrepreneurs in eight Southeastern states. From January through March, the VBOC assisted veteran small business owners in creating 64 jobs and retaining 21 jobs. Staff counseled 707 distinct clients who brought in \$992,411 in total capital formation, including 14 SBA Patriot Express Business Loans. The Department of Defense awarded contracts totaling \$23,474,800 to VBOC Region IV customers in Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina and Tennessee.

The College was awarded a \$1.3 million, five-year TRIO Student Support Services Program grant, funded through the US Department of Education. With an annual budget of \$256,304, the program serves 190 students. Program staff serve students with advising, academic tutoring, referrals for financial aid, scholarship application assistance, and workshops and seminars. The program's annual performance report to the Department of Education showed the project met or exceeded all objectives including a 91% persistence rate and 91% of participants are in good standing.

The \$2 million Community-Based Job Training Grant, funded by the US Department of Labor, showed positive results with grant curriculum intervention and new state-of-the-art equipment for students. Based on the direct student impact, graduates of Practical Nursing, Surgical Technology and Emergency Medical Technician had a 100% pass rate upon taking the certification exam.

## TCC Hosts Clean Energy Summer Camp

Reporter: TCC Release

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. (June 22, 2011) –

Tallahassee Community College's Division of Workforce Development in partnership with the Tallahassee Housing Authority (THA) is hosting a clean energy summer camp for 20 children of low-income families Monday, June 20 through Friday, June 24. The camp includes a variety of lessons on energy and hands-on technology/science projects intended to pique kids' interest in clean energy and other science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) careers.

Children at the camp will learn about the different kinds of energy production, sustainability, solar water heating and photovoltaic systems. The lessons include fun, hands-on projects such as constructing a solar cooker out of a pizza box and making a solar-powered cell-phone charger.

The camp is funded by a National Science Foundation grant that seeks to improve the involvement of underrepresented populations in clean energy and other STEM fields. All of the camp's attendees live in public housing or attend the THA's community summer camps and most will be entering 7th or 8th grade in the fall. This program is on a volunteer basis.

"This is a wonderful opportunity for these children not only to learn about technology, science and mathematics, but also to have a lot of fun," said Claudette Cromartie,

executive director of the Tallahassee Housing Authority. "They are being exposed to a totally different area of Tallahassee and they're already excited to see TCC's campus. Hopefully, this program will inspire them to continue their education through high school and beyond."

According to Marc Dick, lead TCC project instructor, the camp offers an opportunity for young students to see how they can become more energy and green conscious, and provides a pathway for students to become interested in green technology careers. "These campers will become the future employees or business owners in our new green economy. They are gaining practical knowledge to help them understand clean energy, but also possible career paths in a vast array of green occupations," said Dick.

The camp culminates in an exciting field trip to see a photovoltaic and solar hot water heater installation in real time operation and a demonstration by the students to their parents of what they have learned during the week.

For more information on the Division of Workforce Development's summer programs for middle and high school students—including upcoming composite materials and technology camps—call (850) 201-9720.

## Gadsden County to host business summit in 2012

DAVE HODGES

DEMOCRAT BUSINESS EDITOR

ocal business, government and economic-development officials from Florida's 32 rural counties will converge on Gadsden County next March 14-16 for the 2012 Florida Rural Economic Development and Tourism Summit.

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

David Gardner, executive director of the Gadsden County Chamber of Commerce, admits that it's still a bit early to promote the summit — program details are under development — but he and others are no less excited that the event is being held in this area. There could be 240 or more people attending, and that means exposure for Gadsden County's business and tourism attributes.

"I am proud that we were selected, and it's just a great time for Gadsden County to have something positive," he said.

The Florida Public Safety Institute in Havana will host the conference sessions, which will cover innovative and best practices that rural communities are using to expand their economies, boost employment and achieve other goals.

"With each summit, our communities become more united and committed to reversing the economic gap between Florida's rural and urban areas," said Rick Marcum, executive director of Opportunity Florida, in a release announcing the event.

Reliance on each other is important for rural communities if they are to promote themselves effectively.

"We do it with a very lean staff," Gardner said of economic-development work. "In most rural counties, staffs are small, and we have limited budgets."

Working together and forming partnerships with the universities, [Tallahassee Community College](#), Workforce Plus and others, rural counties can tap into additional resources. "We have to leverage ourselves in so many ways," Gardner added.

Opportunity Florida helps in that regard. It's an alliance representing Calhoun, Franklin, Gadsden, Gulf, Holmes, Jackson, Liberty, Wakulla and Washington counties that works to provide resources, know-how and the communication to make things happen.

Getting together with colleagues from other areas is a benefit, too. Over the years, Gardner says he's made numerous connections and built friendships with others. "We all have a lot of the same concerns and issues," he said.

## Missing in America: the lost art of modesty

BY MARY ANN LINDLEY

EDITORIAL PAGE EDITOR

"Dead," I said. "Pretty sure."

It was late in the afternoon and I was in no mood for guessing. I went back to my keyboard and hit reply: Who the heck is Governor Long?, I asked, largely to puncture a balloon somewhere.

Hyperbole and excess are not only rampant in political speech. Our culture of entitlement seems to be full of ambitious folks in need of deferential titles — and plenty of people in line to perpetuate the ruse.

Turns out the "governor" in question is Michael Long, a 19-year-old environmental policy major at New College and the new student representative on the Board of Governors. The BOG has a role in setting policies for the State University System and being on this board is a good opportunity for a college student. Long probably brings an immediacy to the issues that is worthwhile.

But if I'm ever so fortunate as to get an audience, I might just invoke my old-shoe privilege and call him Mike — and tell him he can call me Mary Ann.

I'd hate to think that at his age he will begin expecting such deference, though clearly BOG members enjoy their status.

Layman further explained that "when the Regents went away there was a quick caucus and this alternative won."

I wish I had been there to see these gubernatorial appointees discussing this major order of state business: How, then, shall we be addressed?

"It took me 6 months to say it without hesitating," Layman added, "since I came out of EOG and only said 'the Governor' for 4 years."

That would be the Executive Office of the Governor, where I'd agree the office is worthy of respect and a courtesy title, regardless of whether you agree with the officeholder.

Myself, I'm generally more impressed with a person who has honestly worked for and earned a significant title, but prefers and suggests that it not be used.

The new president of [Tallahassee Community College](#), Jim Murdaugh, came to visit the newspaper recently, for example, and introduced himself to one and all as "Call me Jim."

When someone started out a question saying, "President Murdaugh," he'd interrupt to say, "Jim. Please."

Former Florida Lt. Gov. Wayne Mixson, conversely, was governor very briefly in 1987 when Gov. Bob Graham moved to the U.S. Senate and had to take the oath of office three days before a new governor was sworn in here.

Mixson appears to enjoy being introduced as Gov. Mixson — and I guess he doesn't mind the baffled looks from those who don't quite recall those three days in Florida history: Jan. 3-6, 1987.

Of course the Legislature is awash in deferential salutations. I suspect many of the senators and representatives — who, back home, may project a touch of humility — don't really require the constant sycophancy of staff and lobbyists, but

they get used to it. It's another notch in the holster of power, and people grow to like it. Around the capital, it's the coin of the realm.

Today's culture of social networking enables anyone to create a steady drumbeat of self-aggrandizement. It's a long-shot, but possible, to become a celebrity for celebrity's sake — without portfolio, but with a big tiresome allotment of chutzpah.

I was at an event at the Capitol not long ago when one of those who has curiously risen to heights of power was asked to introduce a foreign dignitary.

It was soon becoming apparent to everyone in the room — except, apparently, to the speaker — that he needed to wind it on up since he was, after all, the introducer, not the introducee.

Standing next to me was the wife of a man who had been rather a bigshot in his day, too. She glanced at me and smiled mischievously as she slipped a manicured index finger from one side of her throat to the other: "He needs a wife," she drawled, "to tell him when enough's enough."

Self-importance is nothing new. Huey Long was both common man and charismatic demagogue. His motto back in the 1930s was "Every man a king."

Today, a lot of folks seem to really believe it.

## Campus Notes

### TALLAHASSEE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Clean energy summer camp for children this week

TCC's Division of Workforce Development, in partnership with the Tallahassee Housing Authority, is hosting a clean energy summer camp for 20 children of low-income families today through Friday. The camp includes a variety of lessons on energy and hands-on technology/science projects intended to pique kids' interest in clean energy and other science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) careers.

Children at the camp will learn about the different kinds of energy production, sustainability, solar water heating and photovoltaic systems. The lessons include fun, hands-on projects such as constructing a solar cooker out of a pizza box and making a solar-powered cell-phone charger. For more information on the Division of Workforce Development's summer programs for middle and high school students — including upcoming composite materials and technology camps — call (850) 201-9720.

## New website aims to help laid off state workers

**Reported by:** Jerry Hume

EMAIL: JHUME@WTXL.TV

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. - The Big Bend is bracing for a big financial hit. June 30th is the end of the fiscal year, and it's also the end of the road for 1,616 state employees, laid off.

Experts estimate the cuts will result in a 70 million dollar financial hit to the Big Bend.

Many of the layoffs are expected to be in the Capital City area.

"We're looking at roughly 400 (state job cuts) in the city of Tallahassee, but it has a multiplier effect because we're talking about families," said Tallahassee Mayor John Marks.

A spokesperson with the Florida Department of Management Services says of the 1,616 employees laid off, 501 were placed in another job.

For those still looking for work, community leaders on Tuesday launched a new website, [BigBendWorks.com](http://BigBendWorks.com).

"We came together because we know it will impact our

economy, we know it will impact the services to our citizens and we know that it will impact people we call friends and neighbors," said Jim Murdaugh, President of [Tallahassee Community College](#)

Designed for unemployed state workers, it's a website that includes job, networking and unemployment compensation information, along with retraining opportunities.

"There are variety jobs, whether it's private sector-related to information technology, we've seen health care, we've seen professional, ie the clerical related," said Kimberly Moore, CEO of [WORKFORCE Plus](#).

The site also has contacts for crisis counseling and food assistance.

"While we are proud of Florida's Capital City and home to Florida's legislature, Tallahassee is also a private sector job creator," said Sue Dick, President of the Greater Tallahassee Chamber of Commerce.

**WCTV - June 28, 2011**

## Theatre TCC! Earns Top Rating

**Reporter:** TCC Release

Tallahassee, Fla. (June 28, 2011) -

[Tallahassee Community College](#) is celebrating another performing arts success. Theatre TCC! recently learned that its spring production of *Chicago* the Musical earned a superior rating from the Florida College System Activities Association. The show, which was directed by Krystof Kage, ran for two weekends in TCC's Turner Auditorium this past April. "This was one of the best college productions I have seen--and I have seen many of them," wrote adjudicator Dave Hartley, formerly of the College of Central Florida.

Hartley also granted 20 individual awards to cast and crew members--a record number for Theatre TCC! Freshmen Becca Kellogg and Michael Varde, who portrayed Roxie Hart and Billy Flynn, were among the individual acting award recipients. Top technical honors went to Jessy Reaves, stage manager, and Megan Mellino, assistant stage manager. The adjudicator also recognized Dan Porten, assistant technical director of Theatre TCC!, for his scenic and lighting designs.

"This is the fifth season in a row that Theatre TCC! has received a superior rating," said Eva Nielsen-Parks, director of theatre. "That level of success is a reflection of the hard work, talent and leadership that our students have demonstrated over the years."

## Florida expected to lay off 1,600 state workers as new budget year begins Friday

By DARA KAM

PALM BEACH POST STAFF WRITER

TALLAHASSE — Pink slips are going out to more than 1,600 state workers by Friday, the human toll of the austere spending plan approved by lawmakers and Gov. Rick Scott this spring.

Facing a nearly \$4 billion budget deficit, the legislature cut thousands of jobs, froze hiring and forced state workers to contribute 3 percent of their salaries to their pension plans in the 2011-2012 budget year that begins Friday. Meanwhile, Scott continues to look for ways to shrink government spending.

The Department of Children and Families and the Department of Juvenile Justice will suffer most of the staff cuts. DCF is laying off 679 employees, including at least five in Palm Beach County, and DJJ is trimming 706, including at least three Palm Beach County workers.

Most of the cuts were the result of shutting down facilities, including two state hospitals in North Florida, where business and civic leaders on Tuesday unveiled a web-based clearinghouse to help jobless government employees find work, pay the bills and deal with the emotional trauma of being laid off.

Website backers say BigBendWorks.com will assist both public and private sector job seekers by putting them in touch with potential employers, educators and support groups to help them deal with the many facets of being unemployed.

"We came together because we all realized the impending layoff in this community of thousands of employees is something we have never experienced as a community and we needed a unique and different

response," said Jim Murdaugh, president of [Tallahassee Community College](#).

So far, layoff notices have been sent to nearly 1,500 state employees, many of them in the Tallahassee region, although more than 500 of those have already moved into other state jobs, Department of Management Services officials said Tuesday.

Many state employees who experienced months of job-related anxiety as they watched different scenarios unfold are now reacting to the reality that their jobs have been cut, said Randy Nicklaus, president of 2-1-1 Big Bend, a non-profit support group that offers crisis counseling and other services, including utility payment and other financial assistance.

"A lot of these folks just found out in the last month that they have been laid off and lost their jobs," Nicklaus said. "Now it's reality. It's not just a fear of what might happen. Now they know it's happening so we are dealing with it from a different angle."

Using donated services and volunteer hours, the coalition designed and built the website to provide job seekers with a one-stop clearinghouse with links to such sites as the Agency for Workforce Innovation, [Tallahassee Community College](#), and the United Way, as well as local chambers of commerce and government sites.

"We understand that the bottom line is paychecks and jobs," Kimberly Moore, chief executive officer of Workforce plus, a Tallahassee-based job training and employment organization.

The News Service of Florida contributed to this story.

## Our Opinion: Making help available

### Employee layoffs will affect us all

A coalition of government, civic and private agencies is to be commended for unifying efforts to help state employees who are losing their jobs.

While the numbers are still in flux, an estimated 300 to 400 jobs are expected to be lost in Leon County, meaning that someone we're likely to know — a neighbor, a friend or family member — will be trying to rebound and move forward.

At the direction of [Tallahassee Community College](#) President Jim Murdaugh, local agencies, businesses and governments have established a website, [BigBendWorks.com](#), to help.

While it isn't a job site, it provides an information clearinghouse for job seekers. It includes links to human services, job information, training and re-training services, financial resources and volunteer opportunities.

It demonstrates the forward thinking of Dr. Murdaugh and the work that TCC as well as Workforce Plus and other entities are already providing in job training and services for those hoping to re-enter the job market. The website is expected to become a valuable tool to make this period of uncertainty less stressful.

The involvement by a multitude of agencies, private businesses and local governments also demonstrates the

impact these job losses are having in Florida's capital and this region.

Beth Kirkland, president of the Economic Development Council, says the loss of jobs throughout Leon and eight regional counties could add up to a \$77 million impact.

An economic impact of this caliber means that more people will need immediate assistance for basics such as providing food for their families and paying for utilities. This means that local social service agencies need all of us to step up and help ease the pain of others. This most recent round of layoffs is likely to force more families that were once able to make ends meet to make choices that they hadn't been forced to consider.

For instance, between June 1 and June 14, the Capital Area Community Action Agency used more than \$70,000 in grant money to assist residents in paying for utilities.

Tallahassee has always been a community whose residents step up in the time of need for others. Donate what you can to local social service organizations so they, in turn, can be there for state workers and others who need help in making ends meet.

We're all in this together.

**Gainesville.com** - June 29, 2011

## State Capital braces for state layoffs

TALLAHASSEE — Florida's capital city is bracing for thousands of public employee layoffs due to spending cuts in the new state budget.

The city joined with other governmental and private interests in the Tallahassee area Tuesday to launch a re-employment effort. It features a website that includes job, networking and unemployment compensation information along with retraining opportunities.

The site — [www.bigbendworks.com](#) — also has contacts for financial resources and social services including crisis counseling and food assistance.

[Tallahassee Community College](#) President Jim Murdaugh said the effort is aimed at private as well as public sector employees who lose their jobs.

## Laid-off state workers get help with jobs

By MICHAEL PELTIER

THE NEWS SERVICE OF FLORIDA

TALLAHASSEE -- As pink slips continue to go out to state workers who make up an inordinate part of the North Florida economy, business and civic leaders Tuesday unveiled a web-based clearinghouse to help jobless government employees find work, pay the bills and deal with the emotional trauma that comes with being laid off.

A coalition of local governments and social service organizations and private companies have joined together to create BigBendWorks.com, a website backers say will assist both public and private sector job seekers by putting them in touch with potential employers, educators and support groups to help them deal with the many facets of being unemployed.

"We came together because we all realized the impending layoff in this community of thousands of employees is something we have never experienced as a community and we needed a unique and different response," said Jim Murdaugh, president of [Tallahassee Community College](#).

Facing a nearly \$4 billion budget deficit, Florida lawmakers earlier this year passed an austere spending plan that included thousands of job cuts, hiring freezes and other measures to curb spending in the short term.

Meanwhile, Gov. Rick Scott has continued to beat the drum for a reduction in government jobs.

With the 2011-12 fiscal year beginning Friday, those line item reductions are being replaced by faces as agencies follow through on cuts approved by Scott just over a month ago.

So far, layoff notices have been sent to nearly 1,500 state employees -- many of them in the Tallahassee region, although more than 400 of those have already moved into other state jobs, Department of Management Services officials said Tuesday.

As might be expected, the Tallahassee area will be heavily

affected -- though Leon County may not be hardest hit.

Large layoffs at certain individual facilities mean high numbers are concentrated.

For example, with a large cut planned by the Department of Children and Families at the state hospital in Chattahoochee, Gadsden County, next door to Leon, will see more than 300 jobs cuts.

But other cuts are farther away from the capital region.

A Department of Juvenile Justice facility closure in DeSoto County will cost that county about 400 jobs -- nearly a fourth of the total.

Many state employees who experienced months of job-related anxiety as they watched different scenarios unfold are now reacting to the reality that their jobs have been cut, said Randy Nicklaus, president of 2-1-1 Big Bend. The non-profit support group that offers crisis counseling and other services, including utility payment and other financial assistance.

"A lot of these folks just found out in the last month that they have been laid off and lost their jobs," Nicklaus said.

"Now it's reality. It's not just a fear of what might happen," he said. "Now they know it's happening so we are dealing with it from a different angle."

Using donated services and volunteer hours, the coalition designed and built the website to provide job seekers with a one-stop clearinghouse with links to such sites as the Agency for Workforce Innovation, [Tallahassee Community College](#), and the United Way, as well as local chambers of commerce and government sites.

"We understand that the bottom line is paychecks and jobs," Kimberly Moore, chief executive officer of Workforce plus, a Tallahassee-based job training and employment organization.

## Site to aid jobless state workers

Business, government leaders join forces with BigBendWorks.com

BY BILL COTTERELL  
FLORIDA CAPITAL BUREAU

Local business and government leaders teamed up Tuesday to help hundreds of laid-off state workers find jobs and temporary assistance during the scary period of financial stress caused by cuts in Florida's government spending.

The launch of BigBendWorks.com, an Internet site combining more than 66 services, was announced by city and county elected officers, Chamber of Commerce and Economic Development Council executives and officials of job-training and placement agencies.

"This is what this community is all about, people helping people," said Mayor John Marks. He credited [Tallahassee Community College](#) President Jim Murdaugh with organizing the response to state layoffs.

The Department of Management Services released revised figures Tuesday, indicating that 1,616 layoff notices went out to employees in 13 executive agencies statewide, but 501 of those employees have been placed in other jobs. The \$69-billion state budget that takes effect Friday eliminated about 4,500 state positions, most of them vacant, and the Big Bend area was hardest hit.

"We will turn nobody away," Murdaugh said. "Anybody who needs assistance in transitioning to re-employment, whether they're state workers or not, will certainly be welcome. The goal, however, was certainly stirred by what happened with state agencies."

Beth Kirkland, executive director of the city and county Economic Development Council, said the impact of state salary losses is estimated at about \$70.7 million for the area.

Numbers change as people retire, quit or find other

positions, but Kirkland and Murdaugh said between 300 and 400 agency employees face layoffs in the eight-county BigBendWorks.com region. Kirkland said that doesn't include workers at universities and community colleges.

Murdaugh said the number might reach "thousands" as local businesses lay off employees due to reduced spending by ex-government workers and their families.

BigBendWorks.com features links to a wide range of services, ranging from crisis assistance and food help to retraining and jobs listings. Murdaugh said it was developed at no cost by Trusteria Services, a Tallahassee information-technology company, and publicized free by Moore Consulting Group.

The TCC president said employers can post job notices on the site, which features links to training programs, health and financial services, crisis counseling, Social Security and Unemployment Compensation offices, credit advice, mortgage and rental information, utilities and food assistance, transportation help and many other services. Associated with the project are the state Agency for Workforce Innovation and the local Workforce Plus placement office, the 2-1-1 Big Bend counseling services, United Way, city and county governments and some other local business and civic groups.

"This is a time when the safety net is most needed," said Randy Nicklaus, president of 2-1-1 Big Bend. He said anyone calling that number, day or night, can get free counseling and referrals for food, medical and utilities help.

## State Layoffs Prompt Regional Volunteer Effort

**Reporter:** Michael Peltier

PUBLICATION

THE CAPITAL, TALLAHASSEE, June 29, 2011 -

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## Florida to lay off 1,600 state workers by Friday

BY DARA KAM PALM BEACH POS

PUBLICATION

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. - Pink slips are going out to more than 1,600 state workers by Friday, the human toll of the austere spending plan approved by lawmakers and Gov. Rick Scott this spring.

Facing a nearly \$4 billion budget deficit, the legislature cut thousands of jobs, froze hiring and forced state workers to contribute 3 percent of their salaries to their pension plans in the 2011-2012 budget year that begins Friday. Meanwhile, Scott continues to look for ways to shrink government spending.

The Department of Children and Families and the Department of Juvenile Justice will suffer most of the staff cuts. DCF is laying off 679 employees and DJJ is trimming 706.

Most of the cuts were the result of shutting down facilities, including two state hospitals in North Florida, where business and civic leaders on Tuesday unveiled a Web-based clearinghouse to help jobless government employees find work, pay the bills and deal with the emotional trauma of being laid off.

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## Girls State delegates meet; going to Tallahassee in July

BY GARY ALAN RUSE

COMMUNITY NEWSPAPERS

Fourteen young ladies who will be attending the 2011 Girls State program as chosen delegates gathered for an orientation meeting at Palmetto Bay's American Legion Post 133 on Sunday, June 5. The post's Women's Auxiliary hosted the meeting and runs the local part of the program.

This year's delegates, some from as far south as the Keys, are Jourdan Black, Lourdes Talavera, Valerie Gonzalez, Melissa Creary, Cydnee Ellison, Trinisha Jones, Bianca Gutierrez, Michelle Johnson, Shirene Tabarestani, Bridget Ramkissoon, Linda Davio, Victoria Valdes, Madison Dorman and Ashley Green. Most are juniors at area high schools.

Beverly Evans, who is the District 14 Girls State chair, admits that there is a lot of work involved.

"We've been going through this since January, with the girls sending their applications in," Evans said. "It's quite a process. Each unit goes to schools and asks for girls; then we interview them and pick our delegates and alternates."

They will leave by bus from Post 133 at 3 a.m. on Friday, July 8, arriving in Tallahassee by early afternoon to settle into dormitories on the campus of Florida State University. During the weekend they will join girls from other areas in forming 25 "cities" of 25 girls each, run for city and state offices, attend "law school" and workshop sessions, and form two parties, the Nationalists and Federalists.

Monday is their day for primary elections, a pep rally and bill writing.

Tuesday is for regular elections and committee hearings. On Wednesday they go to the Capitol for inauguration day, photos, a mock trial in the state Supreme Court and a mock disaster plan. That work continues on Thursday, followed by a spirit showcase. Friday also is at the Capitol and is capped by a dinner and awards night at FSU. On Saturday, July 16, at 8 a.m., they all board buses again for the return trip home.

Florida Girls State is a program dating back to 1947, designed to instill an understanding of the privileges and responsibilities of citizenship and public service. Each year 300 young women are given the opportunity to learn about America's democratic form of government through firsthand experience. Some Girls State bills have been adopted by legislators and become state law.

The Women's Auxiliaries of the 17 American Legion districts statewide fully fund the costs for the girls attending Girls State, paying for everything from transportation to food and laundry. The total cost for the yearly program is \$130,000.

While on the trip the delegates have constant supervision and strict rules regarding cell phone use, curfew times, the clothing they can wear — especially while in the Capitol Chambers — and many other details.

Five scholarships will be given out by the end of the session, covering two years at [Tallahassee Community College](#) and two years at Florida State University. Additionally, the delegates will compete for a \$25,000 national scholarship provided by Samsung.

Delegate Linda Davio, who attends Coral Reef High School and lives in Palmetto Bay, is excited about going to Tallahassee for the sessions.

"I'm honored to be chosen to be a part of this," Davio said. "It's a very prestigious event. I'd love to be a state representative or any office in government, so I'm hoping this will help me."

Victoria Valdes, a St. Brendan's High School student who lives in the Pinecrest area, shares her enthusiasm for the opportunity.

"I'm really interested in learning more about government on the state level, as I have already learned something about the national level," Valdes said. "I'm definitely looking forward to this."

Bianca Gutierrez, a resident of the Westchester area, also views it as a chance to learn and make a difference.

"I go to St. Brendan's High School and they selected us," Gutierrez said. "It's very exciting to get involved in government and create something of your own. I want to contribute back to the community."

Rose Nepa of the Girls State program gave the primary briefing to the delegates, going through the pre-trip paperwork with them. She is an enthusiastic supporter of Girls State.

"We look forward to a session that gives these girls an opportunity to experience government hands-on," Nepa said. "There aren't many other opportunities like this for just girls, without distractions, and I'm always very proud of them."

## Inaugural Brandon M. King Memorial Scholarship Awarded

Reporter: TCC Release

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. (June 30, 2011) –

The [Tallahassee Community College](#) Foundation recently announced Kenneth Turner as the inaugural recipient of the Brandon M. King Memorial Scholarship.

Turner is from Tallahassee and graduated from North Florida Christian School.

The scholarship is named after Tallahassee resident PFC Brandon Michael King, who was killed on July 14, 2010, during an attack by enemy forces at Combat Outpost Nolan, located in the southern Kandahar Province of Afghanistan.

"I have been given a huge opportunity to honor Brandon King and his family," said Turner, who noted that he and Brandon shared a love for video games.

"This scholarship will relieve some of the financial burdens and enable me to focus more on my childhood dream of becoming a game designer," Turner added. "Receiving this scholarship has inspired me to give back to the community and help someone who has struggled to go to college and pursue their dreams."

The King family, including mother Carolyn, a TCC graduate and active member of the TCC Alumni Association, was extremely pleased with the selection of Turner as the scholarship recipient.

"He (Kenneth) is an excellent and dedicated student who has the same dream as Brandon did (becoming a video game designer)," she said. "We are honored that he (Kenneth) has been awarded the first Brandon M. King Scholarship."

Scholarship applicants were required to have a minimum 2.5 GPA, demonstrate a financial need and receive a recommendation from a faculty member, employer or community member.

According to Ranie Thompson, TCC Foundation Development Officer, selecting the scholarship recipient was a "tough decision," as Turner was chosen from close to 300 applicants.

"In addition to his strong grades and character, Kenneth's essay also revealed traits that made him a good fit for the scholarship," said Thompson.

The essay told the story of Turner's mother, a single parent who worked three jobs while only allowing her son to work part-time while in school, in order to concentrate on his studies.

Turner's award will assist in covering costs, such as tuition and fees, books and other required class supplies.

WCTV - June 30, 2011

## TCC Students Collect Food for Homeless Veterans

Reporter: TCC Release

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. (June 30, 2011) -

Beyond fireworks or barbecues or pool parties, the [Tallahassee Community College](#) students in Dr. Melissa Soldani-Lemon's history class have something special planned for this Fourth of July weekend. The TCC professor is coordinating with her students to collect and deliver food for Veterans Village, a transitional residential community for homeless veterans. Around 1 p.m. on Friday, July 1 Dr. Soldani-Lemon and her students will deliver their collection of goodies to Veterans Village. The food will be for an Independence Day party for the veterans, as well as for stocking the facility's pantry.

"My students wanted to make sure the veterans at the village can share in the Fourth of July celebrations," said Dr. Soldani-Lemon. "After all, it's due to the veterans' sacrifices that we're able to celebrate."

Established in 2009 through a partnership between Volunteers of America, the Department of Veterans Affairs and the Veterans Administration, the Veterans Village gives homeless veterans a transitional place to live and offers counseling. It is located on the corner of Lake Bradford Road and Kissimmee Street. Those interested in contributing can drop off items at Dr. Soldani-Lemon's office, room 204 of the History and Social Sciences Building.

## Local professor, students help transitioning vets

Reported by: Demetria Wright

EMAIL: DWRIGHT@WTXL.TV

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. - The Fourth of July is fast approaching and in the spirit of the holiday, one local professor and her students are giving a helping hand to area veterans.

[Tallahassee Community College](#) Professor Melissa Soldani and students from her online history class dropped off bags of food and drinks to the "Veterans Village" apartment complex.

The complex is a transitional residential community for local homeless vets.

Professor Soldani says it's her responsibility to help them out

"My students are veterans. When I was growing up they were older than me and now they're younger than me. They're 10, 15, 20 years younger than me...they're my responsibility and I'm not alone in feeling like that in that community," said Soldani. "I think our holidays of Veteran's Day, Memorial Day and Fourth of July; it's changed in past 10 years."

The "Veterans Village" was established in 2009 through a partnership between "Volunteers of America" and the "Veterans Administration."

**Tallahassee Democrat - July 3, 2011**

## Change to FRS has \$93 million price tag for Big Bend area

BY BILL COTTERELL

FLORIDA CAPITAL BUREAU

In all the debate about requiring public employees to ante up 3 percent of their salaries for retirement, both sides agree on one thing.

It could have been worse.

The 3-percent mandatory retirement contribution is far better than the 100 percent loss thousands of their laid-off coworkers are seeing. But for businesses, especially in the Big Bend and Panhandle area, the economic impact is just beginning and will be felt for years to come.

[Tallahassee Community College](#) President Jim Murdaugh estimated the spinoff job loss "in the thousands" from state layoffs.

Beth Kirkland, executive director of the Economic Development Council of Tallahassee and Leon County, said the pension payment also will be felt by merchants.

"The economic impact, thus far, has been calculated

at \$93 million, and that's based on the people in our four-county region who are required to contribute to the Florida Retirement System," she said. Kirkland said that includes employees of the state, universities and community college, county governments and school boards in Leon, Wakulla, Jefferson and Gadsden counties.

The EDC worked with Florida State University Center for Economic Forecasting and Analysis to come up with its figures. Julie Harrington, director of the center, said taking 3 percent out of already-flat government earnings has to show up in retail sales and economic growth for the area.

"There's definitely going to be less consumer spending, but how that translates is difficult to predict," Harrington said. "Everyone's tightening their belts, basically."

She said there's a "spillover effect" on consumer confidence because employees, seeing others laid off, tend to reduce discretionary spending.

## Change to FRS has \$93 million price tag for Big Bend area....

*continued*

'Devastating'

The 3-percent employee retirement contribution will save taxpayers more than \$800 million.

Democrats and lobbyists for labor unions representing public employees called it a de facto income tax on public employees. A group of unions filed suit in Leon County Circuit Court to stop the levy, and Judge Jackie Fulford late last week refused to make the state segregate proceeds of the 3-percent contributions in a separate account so it can be quickly refunded if the employees win their suit.

A hearing is set for October in the case.

Gov. Rick Scott, who wanted a 5-percent pension contribution from employees, sees it as both good math and fair policy. The FRS trust fund has an unfunded liability, with assets running at about 88 percent of potential liabilities, and almost all Floridians in the private sector pay something toward their retirement.

"We're going to make sure our pension plan for the benefit of state workers is fair to taxpayers, and fair to state workers, and we need a plan that is long-term viable," Scott said at a Leon County Republican meeting last month. "Our plan is not fully funded. On top of that, our state workers don't participate in the pension plan. It's not fair to taxpayers, who don't have a pension plan, or most likely they have a 401(k) plan."

The Republican governor contends that the \$800 million-plus saved by state, county, school board and other government employers will trickle down in the form of better services and tax cuts. Combined with other conservative policies, like repealing rules and regulations or improving the state's liability lawsuit climate, the pension fee is part of Scott's seven-year plan to generate 700,000 new jobs in the private sector.

But Daniel Rubin, a spokesman for the Service Employees International Union, doesn't see it that way. SEIU represents about 19,000 public employees, largely at the city and county levels, and it futilely lobbied to preserve Florida's fully employer-paid pensions.

"For our members, this 3-percent pay cut could be devastating," said Rubin. "With Florida facing the worst economic downturn in decades, Gov. Scott and the Florida Legislature pushed through an unconstitutional income tax on public workers at a time when working families are struggling to scrape together every penny."

Choices

Florida TaxWatch, a policy study group that recommended a wide range of public pension changes, said those enacted by the Legislature would save taxpayers about \$1.9 billion — with the state reaping about \$1.2 billion of that. TaxWatch President Dominic Calabro said that, faced with a \$4 billion revenue shortfall this year and an unwillingness to raise any taxes, legislators avoided further layoffs by making employees pay for pensions.

"Assuming an average annual cost — salary and benefits — of \$50,000 per state job, more than 6,000 jobs would have had to have been eliminated in order to balance the state budget without the 3-percent contribution," Calabro said. "This estimate does not include job losses in the State University System, community colleges, or the local schools that would have been necessary without the 3-percent contribution."

Only about one-fifth of FRS employees are in state government, with school boards, county agencies, some cities and special districts making up the bulk of the system. A few employers have been able to cover the pension fee — FSU President Eric Barron has pledged a 3-percent raise, while Leon County has approved the same pay hike for employees making \$49,999 or less — and eating half the increase for those earning between \$50,000 and \$69,999.

But some smaller, rural counties haven't been able to absorb the impact for their workers.

Richard Williams, director of the Chipola Workforce Development Board, said his agency hasn't evaluated the impact of the pension payment on spending activity in his five-county region. But he said "it's certainly not going to help" in an area where hundreds of jobs have been lost at Florida State Hospital and the Dozier juvenile facility.

## Change to FRS has \$93 million price tag for Big Bend area....

*continued*

"Our biggest issue is layoffs," he said. "But we've been through cutbacks before, in the private sector, and we know we'll get through this."

### 'Compromise'

Sarabeth Snuggs, director of the state Division of Retirement, said there has been a run on applications for the Deferred Retirement Option Plan. DROP allows employees to retire and continue working for up to five years, with their pensions banked while they continue drawing their paychecks.

The pension-reform package cut interest earnings on DROP accounts from 6.5 percent to 1.3 percent. Snuggs said "we've had about twice as many applications" in May and June as she did last spring — when then-Gov. Charlie Crist vetoed a similar interest cut — as employees rushed to qualify for the higher interest rate before July 1.

Since employees have 30 days to review their DROP packages, Snuggs said it won't be known until the end of July how many DROP-eligible employees signed up to beat the new law. DROP participants will not pay the 3-percent contribution.

But having retired, the surge in DROP means thousands more FRS members will be bowing out over the next five years. State and local governments will be under fiscal pressure to replace as few of them as possible.

Tallahassee Reps. Alan Williams and Michelle Rehwinkel Vasilinda, both Democrats, opposed the 3-percent retirement contribution. They joined with union protestors who rallied in front of the Capitol and worked

House and Senate hallways in a doomed effort to beat Scott and the Republican leadership's pension plans.

But Rep. Marti Coley, a Marianna Republican who voted for the FRS package, said Florida could not continue to be the only state in the nation not charging public employees anything for their pensions. She acknowledged that it was a bitter dose for many low-wage hospital, prison and health care employees in her sprawling Panhandle district, which runs from Destin across southern Leon County.

"For those making lower salaries, it is going to affect their buying power," said Coley, adding that she tried to reduce the levy to 2 percent during the session. "But I saw the contribution to the FRS as better than an outright salary reduction. A pay cut, you never see again, but this they'll get back if they work until retirement."

Getting there will take longer, and there are sure to be more pension restrictions in future legislative sessions. Many conservative legislative leaders want to make all new hires join the Public Employee Optional Retirement Plan, similar to a 401(k) investment system, rather than the "defined benefit" system that covers the vast majority of FRS members.

Coley said this year's 3 percent could be a hedge against worse things to come.

"It's a reduction, but it's still a salary," she said. "Sometimes you have to compromise in order to be able to continue fighting another day."

## TCC Upgrades Communications to Campus Community

Reporter: TCC Release

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. (July 7, 2011) –

**Tallahassee Community College** is excited to announce the launch of TCC Connect, a part of the Blackboard Connect mass notification platform. The new, more robust platform will allow TCC to reach students, faculty and staff with important, timely information in just minutes.

With the TCC Connect platform, the College can quickly and efficiently communicate with students, faculty and staff in urgent situations. TCC Connect can also be used to send proactive notifications, such as registration reminders, financial aid deadlines and class cancellations.

To ensure that important messages reach the campus community rapidly, regardless of participants' location or preferred method of communication, TCC Connect can send messages through five different modes of communication:

Voice messages to home phones and mobile phones

Text messages to mobile phones

E-mail

Posts to TCC's Facebook and Twitter accounts

Messages to TTY/TDD devices for people who are hearing impaired

"It's crucial that we are able to notify students quickly in time-sensitive situations," said E.E. Eunice, TCC Chief of Police. "This new system will be a valuable tool to keep our campus informed during any unforeseen event."

TCC students, faculty and staff will automatically be enrolled in TCC Connect, guaranteeing they have access to important information regarding campus safety, registration, financial aid and other vital matters.

TCC Alert—the College's current emergency event notification system—will be integrated into TCC Connect, in order to prevent redundancies in communication efforts. The new notification system is being tested during the month of July.

Individuals who are not current TCC students or employees can enroll in TCC Connect by e-mailing Jackie Willis at [willisj@tcc.fl.edu](mailto:willisj@tcc.fl.edu).

## Employment initiative to encourage more hiring

BY DAVE HODGES  
DEMOCRAT BUSINESS EDITOR

Area employment officials will use a pool of about \$1 million to help offset some of the cost that companies incur in recruiting new personnel.

Workforce Plus, the Economic Development Council of Tallahassee-Leon County, Workforce Florida Inc., [Tallahassee Community College](#) and other partners gathered Thursday to announce the initiative Jobs=Paychecks Now, designed to address the effects of recent state layoffs and to assist other individuals who are seeking work.

Employers who participate in Jobs=Paychecks Now are eligible to receive a reimbursement of up to \$1,250 for every new, full-time position they create and fill. Kimberly Moore, CEO of Workforce Plus, said the funds allow employers to provide on-the-job training to prepare new hires for successful job retention, and extends to job seekers an employment opportunity that might not otherwise be available.

Lisa Stephany, human resources director at local manufacturer Quincy Joist, said her company will be one of the first to participate in Jobs=Paychecks Now. The business expects to have 10 to 20 new positions in the months ahead.

"This initiative is very timely because it helps us bridge that gap of bringing employees in and helping us ramp up so that we have a trained workforce ready," she said.

The company designs and fabricates the steel girders and joists used in the roof systems of large industrial and commercial buildings.

Jobs=Paychecks Now is funded with \$250,000 from Workforce Plus and \$774,800 in matching funds from Workforce Florida Inc.

Employers who participate receive a reimbursement equal to half the worker's first month wages, up to \$1,250.

"Let me underscore that this is not a freebie," Moore said. "Employers must agree to establish a training plan for their employees, as well as support the employee's successful retention in their new job."

Timothy Meenan, chairman of the Workforce Plus board, said the program has the potential to boost recruiting.

"We are excited because the idea is that we think that there may be a lot of employers who are ready to make that additional hire, ready to make a couple of new positions available. This funding will prime the pump for them to go ahead and step over the threshold and hire that person," Meenan said.

For details on the program, visit the website [www.wfplus.org](http://www.wfplus.org) or call 617-4602.

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[Tallahassee Community College](#) is excited to announce the launch of TCC Connect, a part of the Blackboard Connect mass notification platform. The new, more robust platform will allow TCC to reach students, faculty and staff with important, timely information in just minutes.

With the TCC Connect platform, the College can quickly and efficiently communicate with students, faculty and staff in urgent situations. TCC Connect can also be used to send proactive notifications, such as registration reminders, financial aid deadlines and class cancellations.

To ensure that important messages reach the campus community rapidly, regardless of participants' location or preferred method of communication, TCC Connect can send messages through five different modes of communication:

Voice messages to home phones and mobile phones

Text messages to mobile phones

E-mail

Posts to TCC's Facebook and Twitter accounts

Messages to TTY/TDD devices for people who are hearing impaired

"It's crucial that we are able to notify students quickly in time-sensitive situations," said E.E. Eunice, TCC Chief of Police. "This new system will be a valuable tool to keep our campus informed during any unforeseen event."

TCC students, faculty and staff will automatically be enrolled in TCC Connect, guaranteeing they have access to important information regarding campus safety, registration, financial aid and other vital matters.

TCC Alert—the College's current emergency event notification system—will be integrated into TCC Connect, in order to prevent redundancies in communication efforts. The new notification system is being tested during the month of July.

Individuals who are not current TCC students or employees can enroll in TCC Connect by e-mailing Jackie Willis at [willisj@tcc.fl.edu](mailto:willisj@tcc.fl.edu).

## Update: Workforce Plus, partners announce employment initiative

By Dave Hodges

DEMOCRAT BUSINESS EDITOR

11:57 A.M.

Area employment officials will use a pool of about \$1 million to help offset some of the cost that companies incur in recruiting new personnel.

Employers who participate in the Jobs=Paychecks Now initiative are eligible to receive a reimbursement of up to \$1,250 for every new, full-time position they create and fill. Kimberly Moore, CEO of Workforce Plus, said the funds allow employers to provide on-the-job training to prepare new hires for successful job retention, and extends job seekers an employment opportunity that might not otherwise be available.

At a news conference this morning at Workforce Plus' offices on South Monroe Street, Lisa Stephany, human resources director at local manufacturer Quincy Joist, said her company will be one of the first to participate in Jobs=Paychecks Now. The business expects to have 10 to 20 new positions in the months ahead.

"We believe that businesses thinking about adding a new position will use funds from this program to go ahead and hire that person now," said Timothy Meenan, chair of the Workforce Plus Board of Directors.

The initiative is funded with \$250,000 from Workforce Plus and \$774,800 in matching funds from Workforce Florida Inc.

Morning post

Workforce Plus, the Economic Development Council of Tallahassee-Leon County, [Tallahassee Community College](#) and other partners will conduct a news conference this morning to discuss the initiative Jobs=PaychecksNow, designed to address the effects of recent state layoffs and assist others who are seeking work.

The \$1 million program, the result of a collaboration between Workforce Plus and Workforce Florida Inc., is intended to increase the ability of area employers to maintain a competitive workforce and create new jobs, the agencies say.

## TCC, DOC partner for prison

### Gadsden Re-Entry Center the first collaboration of its kind

By Doug Blackburn

DEMOCRAT SENIOR WRITER

Even though the economy is flat-lining, [Tallahassee Community College](#) is developing novel ways to expand while fulfilling one of its core missions — improving conditions in Gadsden County.

Work has begun on the Gadsden Re-Entry Center, a \$19-million, 76,000-square-foot minimum security prison on the grounds of TCC's Florida Public Safety Institute in Midway.

The prison, the first collaboration of its kind between the state Department of Corrections and a college, is on target to open in October 2012. It will house about 400 men who are close to leaving the prison system, many of them returning to Gadsden, Leon and surrounding counties.

The Gadsden Re-Entry Center is projected to create between 150 and 200 new jobs in a county that has one of the highest unemployment rates in North Florida.

It also will serve as on-site training for the cadets at the Florida Public Safety Institute, formerly known as the Pat Thomas Law Enforcement Academy, while indoctrinating them in the culture of "re-entry," a growing focus of the corrections world in Florida and nationwide.

"The real No. 1 priority is that over time this facility will bring as many as 250 jobs to Gadsden County. That's something the college has been committed to for a long time — improving the economic climate in Gadsden County," said TCC President Jim Murdaugh, who was in charge of the Florida Public Safety Institute when TCC and DOC came to terms on the Midway project in 2009.

The state opened its first re-entry facility in Jacksonville in 2007. Two others, in Hillsborough and Palm Beach counties, have since opened to serve a fraction of the 102,000 offenders behind bars in Florida.

Walt McNeil, the DOC secretary under Gov. Charlie Crist, and Edwin Buss, who heads the department under Rick Scott, are vocal proponents of re-entry facilities.

McNeil, now the police chief in Quincy, was in charge of DOC when the Gadsden Re-Entry Center went from a pipe dream to an approved project. It is one of only a few prisons under construction in Florida, said Gretl

Plessinger, a DOC spokeswoman.

"I envisioned building something that we could use in multiple ways: house inmates, help with re-entry and use the facility to train future DOC officers," McNeil said. "It would offer a variety of access points that would assist both recruits and inmates."

TCC has agreed in principle with DOC to provide programming within the prison, though details have not been worked out, Murdaugh said.

"I really applaud the different thinking at corrections," Murdaugh said. "We've got to do something to make certain that when men get out of prison, they stay out of prison."

Allison DeFoor, a member of TCC's Board of Trustees, brings a unique perspective to the Gadsden Re-Entry Center. DeFoor, who represents Wakulla County on TCC's board and is involved with the Center for Smart Justice at Florida Tax Watch, is a former law professor at the University of Miami and one-time prosecutor and Monroe County sheriff. He applauds what's in the works for Midway and TCC.

"The potential here is enormous," he said. "This could become a nationwide example of how to do this right."

"The ability to cross-reference what TCC does so well with what the corrections world is beginning to do, I think that's a 2 plus 2 equals 8," DeFoor added.

Local architect Warren Emo, who recently completed the master plan for TCC's main campus, was awarded the contract for the Midway facility.

The multi-structure center will be spread across 47 acres and feature a support building for administrative staff, a warehouse building and a materials-and-supply center in addition to three dorms housing up to 144 inmates each.

Plessinger, at DOC, described the inmates as being in the final years of their sentences when they are moved to the re-entry center. She likened the facility in terms of its size to a work camp. Its primary value, she said, will be for the cadets at the Florida Public Safety Institute.

## TCC, DOC partner for prison....

*continued*

"It means that people who are coming in to go through the academy will be taught about re-entry from the very beginning. It will be part of their culture, and it will give them a wonderful opportunity to learn about the department's main missions from day one," she said.

When Murdaugh talks about the facility, he keeps returning to how it will be a shot in the arm for Gadsden County.

"I'm not talking about just jobs. People will be buying homes, renting homes," he said. "New employees at the center will be members of the community."

David Gardner, executive director of the Gadsden County Chamber of Commerce, is thrilled to have the facility under construction in Midway.

"Make no mistake: Right now we need those jobs, and we need them bad," Gardner said. "We've had a lot of job losses, and a lot of businesses are suffering. Right now, every job is valuable."

**Tallahassee Democrat - July 11, 2011**

## Campus Notes

TCC has launched TCC Connect, a part of the Blackboard Connect mass notification platform. The new, more robust platform will allow TCC to reach students, faculty and staff with important, timely information in just minutes. With the TCC Connect platform, the College can quickly and efficiently communicate with students, faculty and staff in urgent situations. TCC Connect can also be used to send proactive notifications, such as registration reminders, financial aid deadlines and class cancellations.

## John Hogan: TCC builds a better future for health care

JOHN HOGAN

MY VIEW

For our community's health care system to work as well as possible, we need to be confident of two things: that we have an adequate supply of health care workers, and that those individuals have been well-trained and are ready to take care of patients.

Thanks to the Big Bend's respected colleges and universities, we are able to have that confidence.

They provide the highest quality education for a wide variety of health-related careers. [Tallahassee Community College](#) in particular trains many of the professionals who make it possible for physicians to take good care of our families. If you have ever been cared for by a nurse, respiratory therapist, radiologic technologist, diagnostic medical sonographer, paramedic, dental hygienist or dental assistant in this community, you have probably been served by a person who was trained at TCC.

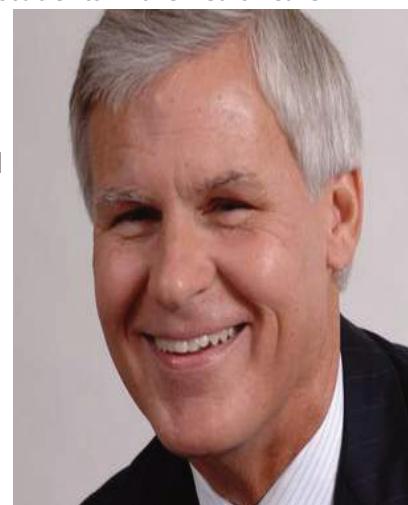
Colleagues tell me, and I agree, that TCC graduates add significant value to their organization — whether it's a surgery center or a hospital, a health plan or a medical or dental office. They also tend to be rooted in the community and ready to remain here to serve their neighbors, and TCC has been especially successful at connecting them with potential employers (local health care organizations).

However, TCC's health care programs have reached a turning point.

Demand for health care workers is increasing, but the college's current facilities are maxed-out. In response, TCC has built an 88,000-square-foot health care education center off Miccosukee Road behind Tallahassee Memorial Hospital. This facility, which will open its doors in August, will include classrooms and laboratories, a library and an academic support center, as well as a simulation center where students will receive hands-on training in clinical skills long before they begin interacting with patients.

In the next five years, TCC will be able to nearly double its capacity to graduate students in the health care professions. Because of its central location, the new center will also give local health care organizations additional options for providing continuing education and training to their current staff. We have all heard about the aging of our society and the predictions that we will need many additional health care workers to meet the needs of that expanding demographic. Well, we also have an aging workforce. Nearly 16,000 people in our community are currently employed in the health care industry. When those individuals retire, will we be able to replace them with highly skilled workers who are well-versed in the latest health care practices and technologies? We must be able to count on TCC to meet much of that need, and TCC must be able to count on us to help.

The construction of the health care education center is just one part of TCC's exciting Healthcare Provision and Excellence campaign, which also aims to increase scholarships available to qualified students and begin programs in new fields such as surgical technology. Because of its importance, this campaign has already been able to enlist the support of all segments of the health care industry here in the Big Bend. However, it is vital to have the whole community support the TCC Foundation in raising the resources needed to make this vision a reality.



## Our Opinion: Getting ahead

### Programs like GEARUP give schools an advantage

Entering the ninth grade is one of those rights of passage moments, marking one's entre into high school.

It's a giddy time for some, as they start to see the path toward becoming seniors. But for others, that freshman year can be a lost experience with a lack of discipline, uncertain academic challenges and a sense of wandering the halls without a cause.

That's why a program such as the one spearheaded by Principal Michelle Gayle at Rickards High School is worth noting.

It's called the Raider Nation Summer Institute program. Rickards High, which earned an A grade from the state last year, is able to offer the institute through its affiliation with the federal GEARUP program. GEARUP, an acronym for Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs, is a U.S. Department of Education grant program that is administered locally by the state Department of Education and [Tallahassee Community College](#). A similar program, focusing on engineering and robotics technology, is being offered this summer at the Florida A&M University Developmental Research School.

The program is designed to increase the number of low-income students who are prepared to enter and succeed in postsecondary education. The U.S. Department of Education provides six-year grants to states and

partnerships to provide services at high-poverty middle and high schools.

The free, two-week program was offered to all incoming freshman at the school. About 70 students are enrolled this summer.

"The ninth grade is extremely critical academically, socially and mentally," said Shanika Mungin, the GEARUP coordinator for Rickards.

The Rickards program is important because it gives incoming freshman a heads-up on what high school is all about through the Raider 101 course. It also offers classes in reading analysis, financial literacy, computer technology and algebra. This is critical, because students entering ninth grade this fall will be required to pass an end-of-course exam in algebra to be promoted.

Programs such as this one are going to take on even more importance as school districts around the state scramble to make up for money lost in budget cuts made during the legislative session.

That reality also places a challenge on principals to be more creative in preparing their students for a successful high-school career, beginning the first day of the ninth grade.

## Campus Notes

Recruit academy students reach 100 percent pass rate

Students in the Corrections Basic Recruit Academy #382 graduated last month from [TCC's](#) Pat Thomas Law Enforcement Academy at the Florida Public Safety Institute (FPSI). The class has since learned it has achieved a 100 percent pass rate on the Florida Department of Law Enforcement State Officer Certification Exam (SOCE). Passing the SOCE following completion of an academy is required prior to employment as a corrections officer in Florida.

**Tallahassee Democrat** - July 20, 2011

## TCC Scholarship created for man killed in motorcycle crash

Democrat Staff Report

A [Tallahassee Community College](#) scholarship has been created in honor of Anthony Revell, who recently died in a motorcycle crash at the intersection of White Drive and Tennessee Street. The scholarship was created with the help of Dyani Jaroz of the TCC Campus Police and Leath Revell, Anthony Revell's brother. Visit [tcc.fl.edu/foundation](http://tcc.fl.edu/foundation) to learn more.

## TCC Awarded \$1.15 Million Federal College Readiness Grant to Serve Gadsden County Students

Reporter: TCC Press Release

Tallahassee, FL -- July 21, 2011 --

The U.S. Department of Education has awarded a \$1,150,000 grant to [Tallahassee Community College](#) (TCC) to increase the college readiness of Gadsden County students over the next five years.

Through a strong partnership with Gadsden County Schools, the Educational Talent Search (ETS) Project will help prepare students to complete secondary education and enter and succeed in postsecondary education programs.

"The Talent Search Program will have a strong, positive impact on the success of students," said TCC President Jim Murdaugh. "TCC is pleased to collaborate with Gadsden County School leaders in implementing this important program."

The initiative is led by Lori Livingston, TCC ETS Director, under the leadership of E.E. Eunice, Executive Director of the Florida Public Safety Institute (FPSI).

The program will provide academic, career, and financial counseling to participants and encourage them to graduate from high school and continue on to the postsecondary school of their choice.

ETS initiatives will include:

Academic, financial, career, or personal counseling including advice on entry or re-entry to secondary or postsecondary programs;

career exploration and aptitude assessment;

tutorial services;  
information on postsecondary education;  
exposure to college campuses;  
information on student financial assistance;  
assistance in completing college admissions and financial aid applications;  
assistance in preparing for college entrance exams;  
mentoring programs; and  
workshops for the families of participants.

The ETS project will serve 500 students annually at Gadsden County schools that serve grades 6-12, including Carter Parramore Academy, Chattahoochee Elementary School, Drop Back In Program at Havana Learning Center, East Gadsden High School, Gadsden Elementary Magnet School, Gadsden Technical Institute, Havana Middle School, Metropolitan Christian Academy, Shanks Middle School, Tallavana Christian School and West Gadsden High School.

The new award will continue a previous ETS program led by TCC to serve Gadsden County.

ETS is an educational opportunity outreach program designed to motivate and support students from diverse backgrounds. The program provides outreach and support targeted to serve and assist low-income, first-generation college students and students with disabilities to progress through the academic pipeline from middle school to postsecondary programs.

## Our opinion: TCC's role is critical in Gadsden schools

When it was announced earlier this month that five schools in Gadsden County received A grades for the first time, it prompted Schools Superintendent Reginald James to give some of the credit to the community for rallying around the schools and its students.

One of the district's biggest supporters is [Tallahassee Community College](#). Under the direction of president Jim Murdaugh, TCC uses its network of resources to continue its partnership with Gadsden County to improve on the quality of life there, especially through education.

TCC announced last week that it has received \$1.15 million from the U.S. Department of Education to continue a program that helps Gadsden County students perform better academically and thus become more prepared to go to college.

The money was awarded to TCC's Educational Talent Search Project, under a 2006 grant that now will be renewed for another five years. It will help the Talent Search Project team work with 500 Gadsden County students, grades six through 12, during the school day and in after-hours programs.

The project is important in that two-thirds of the students must come from lower-income families or who would be the first generation in their family to attend college.

While TCC can't use the money as a direct recruiting tool, it does benefit because 90 percent of the students in the program since 2006 have enrolled at TCC.

Gadsden County benefits because the Talent Search Project Team offers free services such as tutoring, a mentoring program, teaching financial literacy and setting up academic workshops.

Students participating this summer are enrolled at a camp where they learn about forensic studies with the idea of exposing them to career opportunities, and they also attend a computer literacy camp.

The project is one of the many elements of The Gadsden Initiative created by TCC and the Gadsden County community to target economic, community and academic improvement. Statistics included in the grant application show how dire such as need is there. In 2010 only 12 percent of its 10th-grade students scored well enough to be considered on grade level in reading; math scores were better but still called "critical," and students also are struggling to pass the science portion of the FCAT.

Results from the year 2009-2010, however, showed that 98 percent of the students in the Talent Search program were promoted and that 96 percent graduated or received a high-school equivalency.

The project's goals for students are ambitious, but the circumstances are equally challenging.

But programs such as this one, which can bring any measurable academic progress of Gadsden County schools, are a partnership well worth supporting.

## Update: TCC launching its new Channel 22 today

**Elizabeth M. Mack**  
DEMOCRAT STAFF WRITER

Update 5:10 p.m.

Tallahassee Community College has begun rolling out new content on its cable television channel, TCC President Jim Murdaugh announced today during a press conference at the TCC Capitol Center downtown.

"The new and revitalized Channel 22 is going to provide our students and parents with information about the college," he said. "We encourage parents and students to check it out."

The upgraded cable access channel is going to feature shows about campus news, community initiatives, student life and how to prepare for college and the workforce.

Partnering with the college is Leon County School Board and the Greater Tallahassee Chamber of Commerce.

"I think this is going to be just the beginning of other great partnerships in our community," said Jackie Pons, Leon County Schools superintendent.

Sue Dick, Tallahassee Chamber of Commerce president, congratulated the college on the launch and said she looks forward to helping the students.

"From the chamber side, TCC has continued to hit the mark on preparing its students for the workforce," she said. "The Chamber looks forward to taking advantage of any opportunities available with 'The New 22 Channel' format to help provide future students, current students and recent graduates with information on the business community — how to network and connect with business leaders and how to prepare for a path into the private sector."

During the press conference a brief clip was shown of some of the shows and topics that will be shown and discussed on the channel.

TCC students are equally excited about the changes to the channel.

"The (Student Government Association) is excited because (the channel) will provide our students with

information about TCC events, but will also keep them updated on SGA news, campus clubs and organizations activities, intramural sports and Eagle adventures," said Franzlyne Jean-Louisq, TCC SGA president. "The best part is the students can be on or off campus and still get informed about what's going on. (SGA) has got a lot planned for this year. We're so excited to have this platform to use."

Murdaugh said the station will airing from 3 p.m. to 1 a.m. every day of the week.

"This is the first step, but not the last," he said. "We know that our students' success is greatly enhanced when they arrive ready for the experience."

Update 12:30 p.m.

Tallahassee Community College is launching its new channel at 3 p.m. today.

TCC President Jim Murdaugh announced the launch this morning during a press conference at the TCC Capitol Center.

"The new and revitalized Channel 22 is going to provide our students and parents with information about the college," he said.

The new cable access channel will include shows about campus news, community initiatives, student life and how to prepare for college and the workforce.

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

Earlier report

The Tallahassee Community College is announcing the launch of its new cable access channel this morning at the TCC Capitol Center downtown.

During the press conference, TCC President Jim Murdaugh will present the channel's new format.

The new Channel 22 will include shows on campus news, community initiatives, student life and how to prepare for college and the workforce.

## Tallahassee Community College unveils the "New 22" tv channel

### Tom Flanigan

TALLAHASSEE, FL (WFSU) - Local access cable T-V channels aren't usually known for exciting programs. But Tom Flanigan reports [Tallahassee Community College](#) is trying to change that as it kicks off an extreme makeover of its cable offering on Comcast Channel 22.

TCC President Jim Murdaugh says "The New 22", as it's called, will not be simply a mouthpiece for school administrators.

"For instance, financial aid, there are some questions that only our financial aid director can answer. But the other side to that is that we will try as much as possible to have students sharing their real experience and their real suggestions to students who are getting ready to come."

Student Body President Franzlyne Jean-Louis sees the channel as a way for students to stay plugged into campus life.

"The Channel 22 platform will also keep students updated with the latest information as far as student government discussions, clubs and organization activities, intra-murals programming, volunteer opportunities and adventures."

At first, programming will run from three in the afternoon until one in the morning seven days a week. That schedule will expand going forward.

**WCTV - August 2, 2011**

## TCC Fall/August Express Tuition & Fees Due August 9

### Reporter: TCC Release

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. (August 2, 2011) –

Tuition and fees for [Tallahassee Community College](#)'s Fall Main and August Express Sessions are due Tuesday, August 9.

Students who have not paid tuition and fees by the deadline will be dropped for nonpayment and have to wait 48 hours before re-registering.

Registration for both sessions is currently underway, and students can register and pay for classes by logging on to [TCCPassport.tcc.fl.edu](#). Tuition and fees can be paid for by credit card or check, as well as in person at the College's Cashier's Office, located on the second floor of the Student Union.

College officials would like to remind students that if payments are being mailed, they should have been received at least five business days prior to the payment deadline to ensure timely processing of payments.

Beginning August 10, Fall Main and August Express Session tuition and fees will be due the same day as registration.

Both the Fall Main Session and August Express Session begin Monday, August 29.

For more information on how to pay for Fall Main and August Express Session classes, log on to [TCCPassport.tcc.fl.edu](#).

## TCC grant will help Gadsden students fulfill college dreams

By Nerlande Joseph  
DEMOCRAT WRITER

Gadsden County students will get help from [Tallahassee Community College](#) in preparing for their post-secondary education, thanks to a grant TCC recently received from the Department of Education.

The five-year, \$1.15 million grant will go to TCC's Education Talent Search program. ETS offers many services to middle and high school students, such as financial aid and career counseling, tutoring and test preparation for the FCAT, SAT and ACT.

TCC President Jim Murdaugh said he was delighted that TCC is working with Gadsden County Schools on such an important program.

"The Talent Search Program will have a strong, positive impact on the success of students," said Murdaugh.

The grant requires that two-thirds of its recipients come from low-income households and are potential first-generation students. Gadsden County met the requirements and was chosen as the target area.

"Gadsden County has such a strong need," said Lori Livingston, TCC ETS director.

According to the grant proposal submitted to the Department of Education, Gadsden County Schools' graduation rates had been below the state average for several years.

"Anything we can do to enhance the learning that is going on the classroom is beneficial to the student," Anthony Jones, associate professor of biology and director of bio-technology studies. "Without the grant, the things that ETS does would not be possible."

The grant will serve approximately 500 students and 11 schools.

"This grant allows students to be exposed to things that will help them succeed in a post-secondary environment," said Livingston. "It makes the goal of graduating and attending college attainable to them."

In the past, ETS has been able to help more than 90 percent of its participants graduate from high school and 80 percent enroll in college.

Parent or students interested in the program may visit the website [www.tcc.fl.edu](http://www.tcc.fl.edu)  
ets or call Livingston at (850) 558-3643.

## TCC debuts new TV channel

By Brandon McMullen

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

Tallahassee Community College debuted its new Channel 22 on July 27.

The reimagined and revitalized television station, TCC22, is your resource for TCC programs and services, activities and events. Through a partnership with Comcast Cable, TCC is able to air programs to help guide you through the steps to prepare for college, succeed as a student while at TCC and excel after transferring from the college or entering the workforce.

TCC22 broadcasts can be seen each day on Comcast Cable channel 22 from 3 p.m. to 1 a.m. You also can access TCC22 programs on TCC's YouTube Channel.

This story was published in the Aug. 4 edition of the Chronicle with an incorrect headline.

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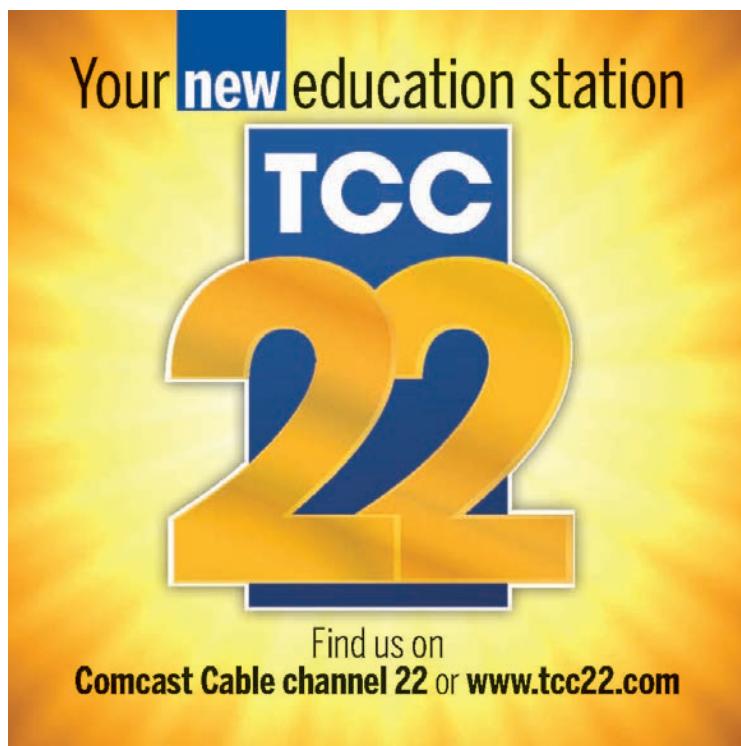
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**For more information contact TCC Allied Health**  
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**Wakulla News, Havana Herald and Gadsden County Times  
Summer 2011**



# IN THE KNOW

Scholarship deadline for Spring 2012

September 1, 2011 — [www.tcc.fl.edu/scholarships](http://www.tcc.fl.edu/scholarships)

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Contact Lourena Maxwell, [maxwell1@tcc.fl.edu](mailto:maxwell1@tcc.fl.edu)

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