

TALLAHASSEE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

In the News



**November 18, 2010 - January 14,
2011**



TALLAHASSEE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

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FPSI Participates in Domestic Violence Training

TCC PRESS RELEASE

Tallahassee, FL - Earlier this week, [Tallahassee Community College](#)'s Florida Public Safety Institute (FPSI) participated in a project coordinated by Florida State University's Law Enforcement Family Partnership (LEFP) on the topic of domestic violence in law enforcement families.

Already in use throughout various law enforcement and corrections agencies in Florida, domestic violence training is now being integrated into the academy environment. FPSI served as the pilot project the training centers throughout the state.

The project has received widespread support from the law enforcement community – it has been endorsed by the Florida Police Chief's Association, the Florida Sheriff's Association, the Florida Department of Law Enforcement and the Florida Department of Corrections – and is now in use in the criminal justice community.

According to Bill Bierbaum, criminal justice instructional coordinator at FPSI, the LEFP project gives basic recruits insight about the consequences of domestic violence in the law enforcement family and offers healthy alternatives to settling disputes that may arise.

"We felt it would be a valuable addition to offer this training to recruits in the law enforcement academies throughout the state," said Bierbaum.

Bierbaum added that the training has been incorporated with FPSI's current law enforcement basic recruit class that will graduate next month.

Administered by FSU's College of Social Work, the Law Enforcement Families Partnership is sponsored by Verizon and comes at no cost to FPSI.

WCTV - November 18, 2010

TCC Announces New Healthcare Informatics Specialist Certificate

TCC PRESS RELEASE

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. (November 18, 2010) -

In the spring of 2011, [Tallahassee Community College](#) is expanding its offerings to include a Healthcare Informatics Specialist Certificate. Offered through the College's Division of Technology and Professional Programs, the certificate will prepare students to work in the expanding field of medical information and records.

With more and more hospitals transitioning to electronic medical records—and America's population of seniors growing—the demand for qualified healthcare informatics specialists has grown significantly. More than just record-keepers, those who work in the health informatics field are an important part of the medical environment—managing databases, providing analysis and assisting doctors and nurses in understanding how to use research and data to help patients.

"This new program will give students the training that prepares them for important and in-demand careers, while also ensuring that the Big Bend continues to have a talented workforce to meet the community's expanding healthcare needs," said Kate Stewart, dean of Technology and Professional Programs. "The scope and sophistication of healthcare data is increasing and starting in the spring TCC's students will have a prime opportunity to be a part of this dynamic and booming field."

TCC is accepting applications for the spring semester and those interested in taking classes are encouraged to visit www.GoToTCC.com to register. For more information on TCC's new Healthcare Informatics Specialist Certificate contact Ms. Shawn Einarson at einarsos@tcc.fl.edu or (850) 201-8352.

Study in China with TCC in Summer 2011

TCC RELEASE

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. (November 22, 2010) –

[Tallahassee Community College](#) is providing students with an opportunity to study in Tianjin, China, from May 7-June 17, 2011.

Located just 30 minutes from the capital city of Beijing, Tianjin is China's third-largest city – modern, with a blend of historical western architecture and the center of modern Chinese history.

While in Tianjin, TCC students will earn six hours of credit towards their A.A. degree while studying at Tianjin Foreign Studies University. Students will take Chinese Culture (IDS1195), which is taught by a Chinese professor who is proficient in English. The course will focus on Chinese history and culture, as well as basic Chinese language expressions and words.

Students will also take International Business (GEB2955), working in teams with Chinese students who speak English. During this course, students will develop a plan for a Chinese business, one that will eventually be exported to the United States.

During the two-month stay, students will live in the Foreign Students Dormitory, located on the University's main campus. The facility is staffed with 24-hour security and each room – which will house two students – has a bathroom, air conditioning, television and Internet access. One night each week, students will stay at Tianjin's suburban campus, where they will also have a dorm room and be able to visit with their Chinese team members.

The six-week program includes week-end excursions to Beijing and Shanghai. Other excursions will include a tour of historical sections of Tianjin, a river cruise exploring Tianjin's newly-developed waterfront and select museums, theaters and markets in Tianjin and a weekend stay in a Chinese mountain village.

Total cost of the program (excluding airfare) is \$4,799 and includes tuition, meals, room and board, and excursions. Airfare is separate and the responsibility of the student. The fares vary and could range from \$1,000 to \$1,500 for a round trip ticket.

Students interested in studying in China should have a minimum 2.50 GPA and should have already completed or be currently enrolled in GEB1011 (Introduction to Business) or a similar course, as well as an accounting class. Students should have already completed or be in the process of completing the basic English course requirements for the A.A. degree, as well as college level algebra or statistics.

Students interested in the program should request an application by emailing Lee Kitchen at kitchenl@tcc.fl.edu. Upon filling out the application, students should drop it off in the TPP Division Office or mail to:

TCC China Study Abroad Program

c/o Lee Kitchen, TPP Division

[Tallahassee Community College](#)

444 Appleyard Drive

Tallahassee, FL 32304-2895

A \$75 non-refundable deposit is due with the application. The application deadline is January 14.

TCC will accept a maximum of 24 students into the program.

For more information, contact Lee Kitchen at kitchenl@tcc.fl.edu.

Murdaugh era under way at TCC

By Doug Blackburn

DEMOCRAT SENIOR WRITER

Jim Murdaugh was chosen to be the next president at [Tallahassee Community College](#) five weeks ago, but he's not expected to officially assume that role until the college's Board of Trustees approve his contract this afternoon.

That hasn't stopped Murdaugh from wading into the waters locally and statewide as TCC's sixth president, however.

He was at last week's Florida Association of Community Colleges' annual convention in Jacksonville, along with Barbara Sloan, TCC's interim president. Murdaugh also has been visible at various chamber meetings in Gadsden, Leon and Wakulla counties — the core areas TCC serves — and had meetings with the college's students and faculty.

His predecessor at TCC, Bill Law, was an enthusiastic proponent of economic development. Murdaugh, who had been director of TCC's Florida Public Safety Institute, says he plans to continue on the paths Law blazed.

"I care very deeply that the college is producing a workforce that the community needs," Murdaugh said. "It's an easy and a natural fit for me. My path to the presidency was through the workforce at Pat Thomas (Law Enforcement Academy)."

Eugene Lamb, chairman of TCC board as well as chairman of the Gadsden County Commission, has high hopes for the college's new president.

"I think Jim will do a super job for us in economic development. I think he'll fit right in and carry TCC to another level," Lamb said.

As the state slowly emerges from an economic recession that has resulted in reduced appropriations for higher education, Murdaugh wonders what the new governor — and a decidedly more conservative Legislature — will mean for TCC and its sister institutions. "We're hopeful that Gov. Scott will see the value of what we do and make it a priority," he said. "We know the new Legislature will be dealing with budget uncertainties.

"The good news is, as I understand, both the governor and his wife are community college graduates. We're hoping that will make them more sensitive to the important role we play."

'Officer-involved domestic violence' now part of training for new recruits

By Doug Blackburn

DEMOCRAT SENIOR WRITER

The recruits at Pat Thomas Law Enforcement Academy in Midway are receiving the same training as future police and corrections officers across the state, with one exception.

This month, for the first time, they are also taking part in a prevention curriculum called "Officer-involved domestic violence."

Believed to be the first program of its kind in Florida, it was developed by Karen Oehme, the director of the Institute for Family Violence Studies, and her team at Florida State University. Oehme is hopeful that by this time next year the curriculum will be part of the training at all 40 law enforcement academies across the state.

"Officer-involved domestic violence is not just a problem in Florida, it's a problem nationwide," Oehme said. "It's a tough, under-reported crime."

'Officer-involved domestic violence' now part of training for new recruits....

continued

"Some studies show there's a higher incidence of domestic violence among law enforcement officers than in the general population."

Oehme stressed that the computer-based curriculum is prevention-oriented. Its goals are to educate recruits about the crime of officer-involved domestic violence and its consequences, and to create a culture that condemns such behavior.

Jim Murdaugh was eager to implement Oehme's program at Pat Thomas, where he was the director before being named president of [Tallahassee Community College](#) five weeks ago.

"This is a problem and it's the sort of thing we need to address," Murdaugh said. "It's exceptional work and I think it will make a difference.

"It's a very important curriculum. All we're doing is helping them deploy their good work. I made a commitment to Karen that we would help her get it into all of the other communities in Florida," he added.

Officer-involved domestic violence training is an offshoot of the Law Enforcement Families Partnership, or LEFP, established last year at the Institute for Family Violence Studies. It is the first of its kind in the country. The Verizon Foundation last week awarded the project a \$50,000 grant to supplement its work.

"None of us is making the claim that this program solves the problem once an officer becomes an abuser," Oehme said. "This is geared toward teaching officers the dynamics and consequences regarding domestic

violence, and it offers healthy relationships modules."

There have been numerous accounts of officer-involved domestic violence in the Big Bend. Carol Hendrix, in charge of officer resources at the Tallahassee Police Department, said TPD has already implemented the officer-involved program as part of its training.

Bill Bierbaum, criminal justice coordinator at Pat Thomas, helped introduce the officer-involved curriculum to recruits earlier this month. It was the program's debut.

"The bottom line is this: We wanted to give them insight into domestic violence in law-enforcement families," he said. "The current curriculum doesn't address this.

"There are things you need to be aware of in this type of profession. You're going to see and do things that nobody else does, and there's a certain stress factor there that could trigger things that you don't want. This gives them some insight that there are better ways of handling things."

Numerous sectors at FSU have been involved with LEFP. In addition to Oehme's institute, which is housed in the College of Social Work, the College of Criminology and the law school have been involved, she said.

"Working with every major criminal justice agency in the state like this is unprecedented," Oehme said. "Every single door that we knocked on opened wide for us. Everyone acknowledges that this is a problem that deserves attention."

Two major grants boost health care

By Nikki Beare

SPECIAL TO THE DEMOCRAT

Two major grants — for a dental sealant program and for an ultrasound machine — will have an impact on the health and welfare of Gadsden County residents.

More than 100 James A. Shanks Middle School students received a dental sealant.

“This sealant helps prevent cavities,” said Max Martinez, executive director for the Gadsden County Health Council.

The program, which helps those who might not be able to afford the procedure, is a joint project of the University of Florida Dental School, the [Tallahassee Community College](#) Dental Program, the Gadsden County Health Department and the Gadsden County Health Council.

The sealant is painted over the chewing surfaces of back teeth to repel food and carbohydrates that can turn into an acid and eat into the tooth’s enamel, thus permitting cavities.

“It prevents 70 percent of cavities,” according to Dr. Michaela Gibbs, coordinator of the program for the University of Florida.

There are plans to extend the program to St. Johns Elementary School next spring.

Michelle Edwards, chair of the TCC’s dental health programs, said TCC students taking part received clinical experience while working with the Shanks students on a painless procedure.

Havana was elated to receive a check for \$64,091 from the U.S. Department of Agriculture. This rural development grant will enable the town to enhance medical services at Havana’s medical center on Fifth Avenue by providing a leased ultrasound machine.

The ultrasound machine will help people who have had to go to Tallahassee to be tested, said Dr. Mark Newberry. There is no public transportation from Havana to Tallahassee. Newberry thanked the town officials for helping provide a much needed service.

“Dr. Newberry explained that the test results can be

transmitted electronically to Tallahassee health care services or hospitals,” said Richard Macheck, state director for the USDA.

U.S. Sen. Bill Nelson’s staff representative Lynn Bannister noted that the grant was a great help to the Havana area.

The Gadsden County Health Council held a special Thanksgiving luncheon to recognize local people and agencies that have helped improve the areas of health education, social services and work-force services. They included:

TCC Quincy House. The after-school learning center, training and community center opened in 2004.

River Chase Nursing Home. It serves the most vulnerable citizens of Gadsden, its seniors.

Marlon B. Hunter of the Gadsden County Health Department. His dedication and ongoing efforts have reduced the health disparity in Gadsden,

Capital Regional Medical Centers and Tallahassee Memorial Hospital. They were honored for providing OB/GYN and dental services.

Anthony L. Fedd, GASF Corp. He served on the board of directors and as treasurer of this group for years.

Astra-Zeneca Pharmaceuticals. It provides financial support to the council’s Prescription Assistance Medical Services Program.

The council also recognized longtime former health care chair Sherry VanLandingham for seeking out donations from the community and others who supported the GCHC’s programs, plus Howard McKinnon for soliciting support from TDS for the event.

Nikki Beare writes about Gadsden County for the Democrat. She and her husband own Beare’s Berries, a you-pick blueberry farm near Havana, and Nikki Beare & Associates Inc., a communications business. She is in Florida’s Women’s Hall of Fame. Contact her at lordbeare@cs.com or call (850) 933-6925.

Campus Notes - TALLAHASSEE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Students can study in China: [Tallahassee Community College](#) is providing students with an opportunity to study in Tianjin, China, from May 7-June 17, 2011. Located just 30 minutes from the capital city of Beijing, Tianjin is China's third-largest city — modern, with a blend of historical western architecture and the center of modern Chinese history. While in Tianjin, students will study Chinese culture and earn six hours of credit towards their associate's degree. TCC will accept a maximum of 24 students into the program. Total cost of the program (excluding airfare) is \$4,799 and includes tuition, meals, room and board and excursions.

James takes road less traveled to FSU

By Anna Katherine Clemmons

ESPN.COM

When preseason basketball practices began at Florida State this fall, assistant coach Stan Jones received a request he'd never heard before.

Junior transfer Bernard James, getting ready for his first season with the Seminoles, had arrived on the Tallahassee campus after two years in junior college and six years of service in the Air Force. Active duty on five different continents meant James had grown accustomed to following orders.

"He said, 'Coach, I need you to start yelling at me because that's how I learned in the military,'" Jones says. "He wants people to challenge him. In my 30 years of coaching, I've never had a guy ask, 'Coach, can you yell at me more?'"

The unique request is indicative of James' unusual path to Division I college basketball. The 25-year-old Savannah, Ga., native, who garnered a double-double (15 pts, 10 reb.) in his first regular-season game on Nov. 12 against North Florida, didn't play competitive basketball until he was 17 years old.

Bernard James used height to his advantage while playing basketball for the Air Force squad.

The first time he picked up a basketball was at age 13 -- and he hated it.

"I was more of a 'climb a tree and read a book' kind of guy, and I was very into astrology," James says. "I was much more a thinker than a doer."

He never watched sports unless his friends already had a game on TV. When, on a whim, he tried out for the basketball team as a high school freshman, he was cut nine days later. "I skipped the first week-and-a-half of practice because that's when they did all the running, so when they picked up a ball, and I tried to come back, the coach wasn't having it," James chuckles. "That was the short-lived start of my hoops season."

Soon after, James dropped out of high school. "Bernard was really laid-back," says his mother, Beverly Cook. "It's not like he got in trouble, he just didn't want to go to school."

His stepfather, Darryl Cook, an Army and Air Force veteran, encouraged James to enlist in the Air Force. He told James that particular specialty would allow him to travel the world and would offer a better quality of life.

So James enlisted, and upon arriving at camp in California, he was immediately asked if he played basketball. "The first day on the job, my supervisor had

a game that night," James remembers. "He asked me if I played, and I said, 'No.' Then he said, 'You do now.'"

At 6-foot-4 and growing, the then-17-year-old looked the part on the court but lacked the fundamentals that many players had developed in their teen years. James tried to be a quick study in the basic tenets of rebounding, shot-blocking and scoring and began watching basketball, mainly on tape delay through the Armed Forces Network. He soon earned a spot on the 15-member Air Force squad, comprised of the best players chosen from the over 400,000 men enlisted in the Air Force worldwide.

His Air Force teammate, Staff Sgt. Rob Grey, who is currently stationed at Travis Air Force Base in California, remembers the first time he played with James. "I put a move on him and thought I had him for a routine jump shot," Grey says. "But he busted the ball out to about the third row of the stands. He's a phenomenal athlete, but he was a really raw talent then. He's grown by leaps and bounds."

James says the Air Force competition was vastly different from college basketball stateside. Many team members were older, and several had played collegiately or in high school. The game was slower, individualized, more cerebral -- a "battle of the minds," James says.

When the Air Force squad entered the World Games, they faced many European teams with former Olympians on the roster. During his six-year stint, James earned four gold medals, including in 2008, when he led the USA All-Star team to its first International Military Sports Council championship since 1998. In the title game, he had 12 points, 18 rebounds and six blocks and was named the tournament's MVP.

Finding time for basketball wasn't always easy. He would often miss games after being called away on assignments or conduct solo practices in less-than-ideal conditions. One afternoon in Camp Bucca, Iraq, where his group was stationed to assist the Army in watching over 22,000 detainees, James practiced on the lone basketball court. The concrete court, he says, was slick as ice. Running was out of the question, so he could only stand and shoot. When he tried to pivot quickly, he twisted his kneecap, leading to a recurring injury.

James (bottom row, center) earned four gold medals while playing basketball for the military.

During his 2005 Air Force season, the team played in a tournament in Las Vegas. One of the referees was also an ACC referee and noticed James. He called FSU coach

James takes road less traveled to FSU...

continued

Leonard Hamilton, telling him there was an Air Force player he might want to keep an eye on, according to Jones.

After that call, Hamilton says he reached out to Beverly Cook, who in turn asked her son to contact the head coach. "We started developing a relationship that way, but he was always back and forth on active duty, so it was difficult to keep in touch," Hamilton says. "But during the communication that we did have, it was obvious he wanted to finish his education, go to college and get his degree, and that once he got out of the service, he'd be very interested in FSU." James says other programs had reached out to him, including Clemson, but that he and his mother agreed Florida State would be the best fit.

In the fall of 2008, after completing his six years, James enrolled at [Tallahassee Community College](#), which boasted one of the top junior college basketball programs in the nation and where he'd remain in close proximity to FSU.

During preseason conditioning, James reinjured the knee he'd aggravated in Iraq. He was diagnosed with a fractured patella and missed the entire preseason. By the time he joined his TCC teammates, "the players were so much more athletic, which was hard for me," James says. "I was used to coasting by, so that was a huge change."

Still, as TCC coach Eddie Barnes pointed out, James didn't get frustrated. He constantly asked for direction and again found himself learning through trial by fire. "He was a sponge," Barnes says. "There were no questions about his athleticism, it just came down to the fact that he'd have to create a good feel for the game." Barnes and his staff worked with James on softening his jump shot and learning how to post up as well as position himself on defense.

In two seasons with the Eagles, James averaged 13.6 points and 9.8 rebounds. He recorded 24 double-doubles and left TCC second on the school's all-time list for field goal percentage (.624), rebounds (512) and blocks (131).

Former TCC teammate Hugh Robertson, now playing at South Florida, says James' role exemplified the lessons he'd learned in the military. "He definitely was a leader, like a big brother for us all," Robertson said.

"He's just a great individual," Barnes adds. "His character and the discipline he got from the military has helped him grow to be a model citizen."

Now at FSU, the 6-foot-10, 240-pound junior joins a recruiting class ranked No. 16 in the nation by ESPN.com. The Seminoles have reformatted their offense this season, focusing on a quicker, more up-tempo style. They're 5-1 and are averaging 78.2 points per game.

While he's still learning FSU's plays, James has already been a positive influence on his teammates.



James' teammates say that while he may still be learning offensive and defensive schemes, he is already a positive influence. "Our team has a lot of upperclassmen, but he brings a whole new level of maturity," junior Luke Loucks says. "When he walks into a room, you can feel his presence."

James' mom tells the story of earlier this year, when one of James' teammates was reprimanded for his actions off the court. James took the player aside, quietly counseling him and reminding him to control his anger so that it wouldn't become a hindrance. "He wants to help in any way that he can as far as the team goes, and also personally," Cook says.

Seminoles junior forward Chris Singleton, reigning ACC Defensive Player of the Year (and whom James cites as his paradigm for defensive play), says James has helped him "learn to be a more mature player."

In the first half of FSU's 97-73 win over UNC Greensboro

James takes road less traveled to FSU...

continued

on Nov. 14, James entered the game at the 16-minute mark of the first half. He looked timid, waiting too long to jump for rebounds and hesitating before attempting a shot. Toward the end of the half, James set up Singleton for a monster block before garnering one of his own. During the second half, James appeared more comfortable, finishing the game with five points, four blocks and seven rebounds in 19 minutes of play.

"I came out kind of flat and wasn't as aggressive as I needed to be," James said afterward. "I let the refs bother me -- I saw the things they were calling, and I was thinking too much about trying not to get fouls called instead of going after it. In the second half, I went out and played and tried not to think about things so much."

"There's a learning curve, so we're just teaching him, being patient and allowing him to develop at the rate that he can absorb," Hamilton says of James.

There's also an element of ACC-inspired awe. "Getting in front of a big crowd in big arenas is still kind of a wow factor for him," Jones says. "But I think in the next month

or so, you'll start to see what kind of great player he is."

Grey predicts his good friend will be in the NBA next year. While James isn't making forecasts, he says he'll "definitely" earn his economics degree, even if the NBA becomes an option.

On Veterans Day, James and teammate A.J. Yawn, who's currently a lieutenant in the Army (but has yet to serve active duty), visited Tallahassee's wall memorial for veterans. The two went to dinner beforehand, talking about their shared experiences and how the lessons they've learned in the military have carried over to being a part of the Seminoles squad.

"I just love basketball now; it's hypercompetitive, and that's what I love," James says. "I love going head-to-head and seeing who comes out the better man."

A love that started by following orders. When asked what he thinks now of his supervisor's command to play basketball that first evening, James smiles: "The best thing that ever happened to me."

No wonder he's asking for more.

Florida Trend - December 1, 2010

Northwest Fla. Business Players - December 2010

By Charlotte Crane

» David Fuller is the new CEO at North Okaloosa Medical Center at Crestview, replacing David Sanders, who left for a similar position at Fannin Regional Hospital in Blue Ridge, Ga. Fuller previously was CEO at Southampton Memorial Hospital in Franklin, Va.

» Tallahassee Community College board of trustees has selected Jim Murdaugh as the college's new president. Murdaugh is TCC's assistant vice president and since 1999 has been director of the college's Florida Public Safety

Institute in Gadsden County. He has three degrees from Florida State University, including a doctorate in public administration.

» The Florida Society of Pain Management Providers named Warren Pearson executive director, replacing Paul Sloan, who will stay on as president. Pearson was chief prosecutor at the Florida Department of Health.

New Website Helps Find High-Wage, High-Impact Careers

Career Pathways portal matches high school students, veterans and underemployed with high-wage, high-impact careers.

Reporter: UWF Release

Pensacola, Fla. –

Residents of Northwest Florida now have access to a new, easy-to-use online tool providing information about high-wage, high-impact career fields, as well as salary information, job openings and educational programs in Northwest Florida.

The Career Pathways website allows Northwest Florida residents to search for careers in fields that interest them and then investigate the educational requirements and career opportunities available in the region. The tool features easy, online accessibility and simple navigation. It is the only website of its kind focusing solely on the 16-county region in Northwest Florida. Through the Career Pathways web portal, residents become aware and gain an understanding of high-skill, high-wage careers in the region and the information necessary for success in those industries.

“Career Pathways allows residents to identify career fields that interest them that are also high paying and impactful to the Northwest Florida region,” said Karen Rasmussen, chair of the UWF Department of Engineering and Computer Technology, who oversaw development of the site. “Once a career field is identified, individuals can then research job prospects and educational opportunities in the area. It is simple to use and focuses on the Northwest Florida region. It really brings a wealth of knowledge in the form of a one-stop resource.”

The portal focuses on the six high-wage, high-growth industry sectors identified in a study conducted by Florida’s Great Northwest in collaboration with SRI International. As a result of the SRI and subsequent studies, Florida’s Great Northwest found that there was not enough awareness of the region’s target industries, key jobs, salary structures, career progressions and skill requirements necessary to meet workforce demands.

This tool has been developed through the WIRED Northwest Florida Initiative as a result of that research. A federally-funded, U.S. Department of Labor grant was

awarded by Florida’s Great Northwest and was initiated by the Northwest Florida Higher Education Presidents’ Coalition (NFHEPC), a consortium of presidents from educational institutions across Northwest Florida. Consortium partners, including Chipola College, Gulf Coast Community College (GCCC), Northwest Florida State College (NWFSC), Pensacola State College (PSC), [Tallahassee Community College](#) (TCC) and UWF, were tasked with developing a common web portal to address career and workforce needs within Northwest Florida.

“Partnerships are incredibly important to our region,” said UWF President Judith A. Bense. “This project is a step forward for the educational institutions, the local workforce boards and the residents of our region. It will help match individuals with career opportunities and direct them into the right colleges and universities. It’s a win-win for all involved.”

“The Career Pathways portal will not only assist residents of Northwest Florida in finding high-paying jobs, but also will impact the region by building a highly-educated, highly-skilled workforce,” said Jeff Helms, chairman of the Florida’s Great Northwest Board of Directors. “The portal is an invaluable tool for high school students, military personnel returning to civilian life or any individual who is underemployed or returning to the workforce.”

Other Career Pathways partner institutions include Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University (FAMU), Florida State University (FSU), North Florida Community College (NFCC), Workforce Escarosa, Workforce Development Board of Okaloosa and Walton Counties, Chipola Regional Workforce Board, Gulf Coast Workforce Development Board, Workforce Plus and the North Florida Workforce Development Board.

The Career Pathways portal is located online at <http://nwflcareerpathways.org/>. For more information about the Career Pathways website, contact Dr. Karen Rasmussen with UWF at krasmuss@uwf.edu.

Knight Foundation Donor Advised Fund Awards \$120,000

The Community Foundation of North Florida announced today the award of \$120,000 in grants from The John S. and James L. Knight Foundation Donor Advised Fund. The grants were made to fund 5 local projects each fostering an informed, engaged community.

Reporter: Community Foundation of North Florida Release

TALLAHASSEE (December 6, 2010) The Community Foundation of North Florida announced today the award of \$120,000 in grants from The John S. and James L. Knight Foundation Donor Advised Fund. The grants were made to fund 5 local projects each fostering an informed, engaged community.

The Knight Fund, a component fund of the Community Foundation, was created in 2004 as a part of Knight's Communities Program which aims to improve the quality of life in the U.S. communities where the Knight Brothers owned newspapers. The priority area of interest of the Fund is informed, engaged communities in the geographic area of the Community Foundation (Franklin, Gadsden, Gulf, Jackson, Jefferson, Leon, Liberty, Madison, Taylor or Wakulla County).

Grant awards were made to (1) Apalachicola Riverkeeper in the amount of \$25,000 for the Oil Spill Recovery Video Monitoring Project, (2) Council on Culture & Arts in the amount of \$15,000 for the Arts & Culture Live Project, (3) Economic Development Council in the amount of \$48,000 for the Regional Leadership Program, (4) The OASIS Center for Women and Girls in the amount of \$9,083 for the Women Can Run Project and (5) [Tallahassee Community College](#) Foundation in the amount of \$23,000 for the Town and Gown Relations Project.

"This first round of grants in the new priority area of fostering an informed, engaged community inspired 5 amazing projects," said Joy Watkins, President of the Community Foundation of North Florida. "And, this is just the tip of the iceberg in terms of the impact of the Knight Fund over time. The Knight Fund currently is a \$3 million endowment and when it is fully funded, it is expected to have a \$5 million value. The endowment will produce a stream of grants benefiting our community for generations."

The grant cycle will re-open in the first quarter of 2011 when \$120,000 will be available for 2011 grants in the priority area of fostering an informed, engaged community.

For more information about these grants and the 2011 grant cycle, please visit the Community Foundation's website at www.cfnf.org.

Summary of each Project Funded:

Apalachicola Riverkeeper - Oil Spill Recovery Video Monitoring Project: The Project is a citizen-centered approach to discuss, formulate, debate and enact plans for a economically sustainable future based on the protection of the natural resources of the Apalachicola basin. The Project's goal is to develop readily understood and accessible information about current, pre- and post-oil spill, and ongoing condition of the coastal environment with community volunteer involvement in order to address the need for an updated, landscape-level baseline reassessment; one that references our coastline resources, upon which our community depends, in a way that is accessible, searchable, updatable, interactive and multifunctional, for the present and future needs of a diverse group of users. The project includes training and equipping a diverse group of community volunteers with hand-held video cams and GPS units to monitor and video important, recognized areas in Franklin County. The Project (a) is community based utilizing volunteer citizen-scientists, (b) uses new digital technology, (c) utilizes familiar web-based platforms such as Google Earth and Flickr to share the info and reduce costs and (d) provides a platform for citizens to share, discuss and engage in improving the assessment and protection of natural resources.

Council on Culture & Arts - Arts & Culture Live Project: The Project gives people in our community the opportunity to engage and participate in, and learn about, local arts and culture. It establishes a Culture Club that will consist of 4 luncheons with guest speakers or panelists, both local and national figures, who will address subjects that provide new knowledge and insight into the political, economic and also the purely artistic and educational understanding of the arts and culture's significant contribution to our sense of place. The Project uses an intern from FSU, Steve MacQueen, Executive Director of Seven Days of Opening Nights.

Knight Foundation Donor Advised Fund Awards \$120,000...

continued

Economic Development Council - Regional Leadership Program: This Project brings together leaders across the region from all sectors (business, government and nonprofits) to begin a common dialogue with the goal of establishing a shared vision for the region regarding the environment, economy and quality of place. The Project includes 6-8 lunches over a 10 month period pairing two counties per event with 4 leaders per county being included. The goal is to educate and build leadership capacity with the current local leaders from all sectors along regional lines by offering a curriculum of regional topics important to all local communities in the 10 county region. The key objective is the leveraging of the new leadership capacity to elevate the regional conversation and establish a working model for collaboration on key areas and the shared value of the region.

The OASIS Center for Women & Girls - Women Can Run Project: The purpose of this Project is to increase the number of local women running for public office by spreading the word about women's electoral success and fundraising prowess, dispelling women's anxiety and negative views about the mechanics of a campaign and increasing women's access to resources about how to run for office. The Project is in partnership with the Leon County Commission on the Status of Women and with support from both the Republican and Democratic parties. It is an 18 month non-partisan, non-issues based political training program for women interested

in running or learning about how to become campaign staff as well as those who are currently in office but want to enhance their political skills as they consider running for re-election. Bi-monthly roundtables will be held with speakers who have run for public office and worked on local campaigns with the goal of distributing factual information about women running for office and the realities of campaigning and to give women an opportunity to ask questions. 3-5 day training sessions will also be held for 50 women in Leon, Gadsden, Wakulla and Jefferson Counties.

Tallahassee Community College Foundation - Town and Gown Project: This Project educates and informs local citizens and local higher education institutions of the importance of building relationships that can become the springboard to greater success for all the stakeholders and the community as a whole. The Project includes research on perceptions of town and gown relationships and town hall meetings to inform the community about the opportunity that creating better town and gown relations offers. Once awareness of the opportunity exists, the Project seeks to engage all stakeholders in a community building dialogue and communications process with the goal of creating partnerships that diversify our economy beyond government and higher education while building the sense of place that will attract and retain the college graduates and young professionals who will help lead us into the future.

Tallahassee Democrat - December 6, 2010

TALLAHASSEE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Campus Notes

College joins sustainability association: TCC has become a member of the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education. Through membership in AASHE, TCC will receive support in advancing its sustainability initiatives throughout the institution and in the community. AASHE enables higher education institutions to meet their sustainability goals by providing specialized resources, professional development and a network of peer support.

Learning Centers get support at Shanks Middle School and Steward Street Elementary

By The Staff

The Florida Department of Education has awarded \$904,096 to [Tallahassee Community College](#) to support 21st Century Community Learning Centers (CCLCs) to improve K-12 student success and college readiness.

The initiative will raise achievement levels of at-risk students through research-based enrichment programs operated outside of the school day during the 2010-11 academic year and in summer 2011.

Program activities will be implemented through a partnership composed of the Gadsden County Schools, Jefferson County Schools, Communities In Schools (CIS), Gadsden Arts Center, Jefferson County Library, North Florida Community College, University of Florida and other partners.

"The Florida Department of Education's generous support is wonderful news for students, and reflects our partnership's strong commitment to prepare students to succeed at the K-12 and postsecondary education levels," said TCC President Barbara Sloan.

Sharon Jefferson, TCC vice president for Student Affairs, whose division will manage the program, said, "This funding will provide vital support for students who need it the most and can be used for academic enrichment services such as tutoring in core subjects like reading and math."

The 21st CCLC programs are located at James A. Shanks Middle School and Stewart Street Elementary School in Quincy, and at Jefferson County Elementary School and Jefferson County Middle/High School in Monticello.

The program supports centers that provide services during non-school hours for students—particularly for students who attend high-poverty and low-performing schools—and their families. By providing tutoring and other academic enrichment activities along with a broad array of youth development opportunities that complement their regular academic programs, these centers help students meet state and local student standards in core academic subjects, such as English language arts and math. In addition, literacy and other educational services are offered to families of students participating in the program.

Roger Milton, TCC Quincy House manager, serves as the project director. At Stewart Street Elementary School, Dorothy Thomas serves as the 21st CCLC site coordinator and Lisa Robinson serves as principal; at Shanks Middle School, Tyrone Smith serves as site coordinator and Juanita Ellis serves as principal; at Jefferson County Elementary School, Shirley Washington serves as the site coordinator and Valarie Thompson serves as principal; and at Jefferson County Middle/High School, Sandra Saunders serves as the site coordinator and Dr. Rodney Ryan serves as principal.

"These programs are invaluable," Mr. Milton said. "Partnerships like these sometimes mean the difference for our students meeting their academic goals and going on to college.

Vice President Jefferson said the new award will build on the previous success that the partnership achieved with the 21st CCLC at Stewart Street Elementary School.

A 2009 external evaluation of the project's first-year performance found that the Stewart Street Elementary program is one of the most successful 21st CCLCs in Florida.

External Evaluator Larry Parman reported in April 2009:

"This evaluator has worked with over 50 21st CCLC programs in eight states. This is one of the very best he has seen. This is even more impressive considering this is the first year of the program. This project has very skilled and talented people in leadership positions.

"They have a unique connection with parents and are highly respected in the community. Project leaders and staff members are excited, enthusiastic and committed to the program. Students and parents are treated with respect and compassion. The project is highly organized from top to bottom. This outstanding program could serve as a model for 21st CCLC programs throughout the state of Florida."

Knight Foundation awards \$120K to local projects

By TaMaryn Waters

DEMOCRAT STAFF WRITER

Five local projects are getting money so they can continue to keep residents informed and engaged.

A total \$120,000 from the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation Donor Advised Fund has been awarded to local projects in the Big Bend. The foundation's goal is to promote informed and engaged communities.

Randy Hanna, chairman of the Our Region Tomorrow that received \$48,000, said his non-profit hopes the grant will help fuel efforts to create meaningful conversations throughout the region on issues that need attention, such as under-employment, rural health care and protecting the environment.

"We are pleased because (the grant) will allow government, business and environmental leaders from across our region to be able to come together to clearly understand the important issues in all of the counties," Hanna said.

The Knight fund is under the umbrella of the Community Foundation of North Florida. It was created to help improve the quality of life in communities where the Knight brothers owned newspapers.

"This first round of grants in the new priority area of fostering an informed, engaged community inspired five amazing projects," Joy Watkins, president of CFNA, said in a written statement. "And this is just the tip of the iceberg in terms of the impact of the Knight fund over time."

Here's what each project received:

Our Region Tomorrow — \$48,000 for the Regional Leadership Program.

Apalachicola Riverkeeper — \$25,000 for the Oil Spill Recovery Video Monitoring Project.

[Tallahassee Community College](#) Foundation — \$23,000 for Town and Gown Relations Project.

Council on Culture & Arts — \$15,000 for the Arts & Culture Live Project.

The OASIS Center for Women and Girls — \$9,083 for Women Can Run Project.

TCC Foundation Names Bell, Hogan Chairs of Health Care Campaign

Reporter: TCC Release

The [Tallahassee Community College](#) Foundation has announced the leadership for its Health Care Provision and Excellence Campaign.

Chairing the campaign is Doug Bell, who will also serve as the campaign's Board Division Chair. The Foundation has also announced that John Hogan, President & CEO of Capital Health Plan (CHP), will serve as honorary chair.

Bell is a lawyer with Pennington, Moore, Wilkinson, Bell & Dunbar. His primary area of practice is legislative affairs, and he represents various Fortune 500 companies, local governments and not-for-profit organizations before the Florida Legislature and executive branches of government.

"It is an honor to be a part of such an important campaign which will, among other things, pay for the latest health care training technology and allow TCC to address the nursing and allied health care professional shortages," said Bell.

Eugene Lamb, chair of TCC's District Board of Trustees, said Bell will be "an excellent campaign chair."

In addition to the Health Care Provision and Excellence Campaign, Bell serves the TCC Foundation as president of its Board of Directors and has served on the TCC Foundation's board for 11 years.

Hogan, who will serve as the campaign's honorary chair, has led Capital Health Plan for over 30 years, from its initial development as its only employee to its current status as one of the area's largest health care organizations.

CHP has been consistently recognized by the National Committee on Quality Assurance as one of "America's Best

Health Plans."

Prior to his association with CHP, Hogan held a variety of health planning positions in health systems agencies in the Southeast. In 2010, he was selected to receive the Lifetime Leadership Award from the Leadership Tallahassee program of the Tallahassee Chamber of Commerce.

TCC District Board of Trustees member Karen Moore, said, "John Hogan is the ideal person to lead TCC's Health Care Provision and Excellence Campaign as honorary chair. His name is synonymous with quality health care in our region and his energy and innovation make him an invaluable resource for the College as it enters one of the most exciting, albeit crucial fund-raising campaigns in its history."

The Health Care Provision and Excellence Campaign will enable [Tallahassee Community College](#) to continue serving the community by educating future outstanding health care professionals. This campaign supports TCC's expanding health care programs by seeking investments for facilities, state-of-the-art technology, student support services, scholarships and more. The College plans to increase health care programs enrollment by close to 100 percent over the next five years.

In March of 2009, TCC broke ground on the new Ghazvini Center for Health Care Education set to open for the Fall 2011 semester. The 88,000 square foot Center will be located in the heart of the Tallahassee's medical corridor, thanks to a 14.5-acre land grant from Tallahassee Memorial HealthCare.

For more information on the TCC's Foundation health care campaign, please contact Robin Johnston at (850) 201-8580 or johnstor@tcc.fl.edu.

New year to begin with local job fairs

By Dave Hodges

BUSINESS MATTERS EDITOR

Employers are starting out the new year with two job fairs in Tallahassee, giving those who are seeking work a chance to meet recruiters and offer their skills.

A variety of companies are participating in the Jan. 6 Spring-Summer Part-Time Job Fair sponsored by the FSU Career Center and Greater Tallahassee Chamber of Commerce. The event takes place on the FSU campus in the Oglesby Union ballrooms from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

FSU said the job fair is aimed at boosting student awareness about part-time, temporary and seasonal jobs in Tallahassee. Many applicants are expected to be on hand — more than 1,200 students attended each of the previous two events, according to the Career Center.

On-campus departments may exhibit for free. The cost for off-campus employers is \$50. The fee includes a table at the event, parking and lunch for two representatives.

On Jan. 18, Workforce Plus will join with the city of Tallahassee, St. Marks Powder, Capital City Bank, [Tallahassee Community College](#), and MGT of American to present the annual Get Connected Job Fair at the Civic Center. The free event takes place from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

As of Friday, Workforce Plus CEO Kimberly Moore said

78 employers had signed up to have exhibits at Get Connected.

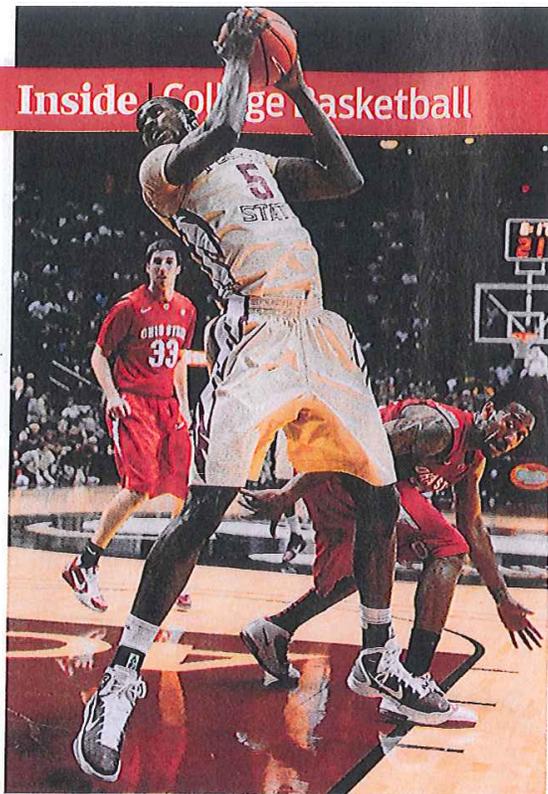
"I think they know there is some great talent out there with the number of people who are unemployed," Moore said. Firms today know that to be competitive, they have to seek out the best talent possible and be ready to invest in human capital, she added.

Employers can still take advantage of this free event, which is attended by more than 1,500 job seekers annually. Registration is limited and booths are assigned on a first come, first served basis. The event also includes seminars on how to work a job fair to get maximum results, as well as sessions on improving resumes and interview techniques.

For information or to register as an exhibitor, call Workforce Plus at 617-4602 or visit the website [WFplus.org](#).

FSU said early registration for the Spring-Summer Part-Time Job Fair ends Wednesday, after which the fee increases to \$75. For details, visit the FSU Career Center website at [career.fsu.edu/expos/parttime/](#) or send an e-mail to jlmcDonald@fsu.edu. The phone number is 645-6516.

Inside College Basketball



Seminole Time

Florida State's Bernard James found direction during six years in the Air Force; he also found basketball | BY KELLI ANDERSON

Even at 25, Florida State junior Bernard James looks and plays like a lot of college forwards: At 6' 10", 240 pounds, he's long, athletic and quietly productive, averaging 7.3 points, 6.0 rebounds and is tied for the team lead with 2.8 blocks off the bench for the 6-2 Seminoles. But unlike most of his D-I brethren James never played high school or AAU ball and never harbored childhood goals of reaching the NBA. In fact, as a high schooler he had no goals at all. "Slacker is a good word for what I was," he says.

James was cut from the freshman basketball team at Windsor Forest High in Savannah when he skipped the first week of tryouts. He blew off school, too, falling so far behind that he twice had to repeat the ninth grade. At 16 he dropped out, obtained his GED and, not long after his 17th birthday, joined the Air Force.



On his first day at Beale AFB in Northern California, his supervisor noted his lanky 6' 5" frame and essentially ordered him to report to a base basketball game that night. "I scored a few baskets, got a bunch of blocked shots and rebounds, and we won," recalls James of his first organized game. "It felt good to succeed at something."

Over the next six years James grew five inches and, between deployments to Qatar, Kuwait and Iraq, blossomed into a star for various Air Force and Armed

VETERAN PRESENCE

James, who served one tour in Iraq, was noticed by an ACC ref working a tournament at Nellis Air Force Base.

Forces teams. In 2005 he was playing in a tournament at Nellis AFB in Las Vegas when an ACC ref working the games told him he had the skills to play big-time college hoops. Soon after, his parents were contacted by a handful of ACC coaches, including Florida State's Leonard Hamilton. "He told me if I worked harder than everybody, I would earn the things I wanted," says James. "From being in the military I know that's how life works."

On breaks from his job as a guard at the prison at Camp Bucca, Iraq—which once housed 22,000 suspected terrorists—during his last deployment, in 2007, James would retreat to the camp's sand-swept outdoor court and try to perfect his shot. "A strong wind blew about 90 percent of the time during the day," he says. "I'd have to shoot toward the sidelines for the ball to go anywhere near the goal."

After his military stint ended in 2008, James enrolled at Tallahassee Community College, where he averaged 13.6 points and 9.8 rebounds and carried a 3.0 GPA. An economics major, he would like to match his TCC numbers eventually. "Bernard's a hard worker, so you know he'll get better," says Hamilton.

James's military-influenced example—"He's never late to anything," says junior forward Chris Singleton—could be as critical as his production while the 'Noles try to avoid a repeat of last year's second-half swoon (after a 13-2 start, they finished 22-10) and improve on their third-place ACC finish. "Whether it's a game or a battle, you have to stick together," says James. "Otherwise you're going to get beat." □

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For Luke Winn's Power Rankings and the latest news, go to SI.com/cbb

SETH DAVIS'S

Three-Pointer

UCLA should be a preseason top five team next year. The Bruins, who nearly knocked off No. 4 Kansas last week behind 33 points from **Tyler Honeycutt**, don't have any seniors, and they have two talented transfers from North Carolina (twins David and Travis Wear) sitting out the season. . . . San Diego State is headed for a high seed. After beating Wichita State by 14 points last Saturday, the Aztecs, which had never been ranked before this season, were 8-0 and sitting 14th. . . . Kentucky has asked to submit new information on behalf of Enes Kanter to the NCAA, which declared the 6' 11" forward permanently ineligible on Nov. 11. But the effort is unlikely to negate the NCAA's finding that he took more than \$33,000 in excess expenses from a Turkish pro club during the 2008-09 season.



Campus Notes

TALLAHASSEE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Bell named campaign chair: Doug Bell has been named chair of the TCC Foundation's Health Care Provision and Excellence campaign. John Hogan, president and CEO of Capital Health Plan (CHP), will serve as honorary chair. Bell is a lawyer with Pennington, Moore, Wilkinson, Bell & Dunbar. In addition to the Health Care Provision and Excellence campaign, Bell serves the TCC Foundation as president of its Board of Directors and has served on the TCC Foundation's board for 11 years.

ChipleyBugle.com - December 16, 2010

Florida's Great Northwest appoints a new president

Chipley, FL

Florida's Great Northwest, the 16-county, regional economic development organization of Northwest Florida, is pleased to announce the appointment of a new president, Don Kirkman. At the organization's board meeting in December, the Board of Directors voted unanimously to hire Kirkman following a nationwide search. Kirkman will take the helm on Jan. 1 and operate out of the organization's Destin corporate office.

A seasoned economic developer, Kirkman most recently served as president and CEO of the Piedmont Triad Partnership in North Carolina, a 12-county economic development organization. He was chosen because of his extensive background in regional economic development including marketing, business recruitment, government relations and fundraising.

"Don is the ideal person to lead Florida's Great Northwest in fostering strong public/private relationships and engaging key partners to brand and market the region and to help diversify our regional economy," said Jeff Helms, practice manager and vice president of PBS&J and Florida's Great Northwest chairman of the board. "For the past 10 years, Don has been the president of an organization recognized as one of the top regional economic development groups in the country. His past experience makes him a perfect fit for Northwest Florida and will allow Florida's Great Northwest to achieve its strategic goals."

"By joining the Florida's Great Northwest team," said Kirkman, "I will have the opportunity to work with public and private partners that are poised to further distinguish Northwest Florida's strengths and assets. Together we will work to grow and diversify the economy of Northwest Florida and make Florida's Great Northwest one of the

nation's premier regional partnerships for economic and workforce development."

Kirkman received his B.A. and J.D. degrees from the University of North Carolina. He practiced law for 10 years in New York City and Morehead City, North Carolina, before becoming executive director of the Carteret County, North Carolina, Economic Development Council, a position he held for 10 years. He was hired as president and CEO of the Piedmont Triad Partnership in 2000.

During his tenure with the Piedmont Triad Partnership, Kirkman wrote a successful proposal for a \$15 million U.S. Department of Labor Workforce Innovation in Regional Economic Development (WIRED) grant. In addition, the organization was recognized as one of the Top 10 Economic Development Groups in North America by Site Selection magazine for 2005, 2006 and 2007.

Kirkman has published several articles and is a frequent guest speaker. He is a certified economic developer and a former president of the North Carolina Economic Developers Association.

In addition to Kirkman's appointment, the 2011 Board of Directors was announced during December's annual meeting.

Florida's Great Northwest 2011 Board of Directors

Sustaining Partners

John Hutchinson, Gulf Power Company

Bentina Terry, Gulf Power Company

Ed Gardner, PowerSouth Energy Cooperative

Kevin Johnson, The St. Joe Company

Corporate Partners

Jeff Helms, PBS&J

Denise Barton, Sacred Heart Health System

EDO/Workforce Partners

Janet Watermeier, Bay County Economic Development Alliance

Richard Williams, Chipola Regional Workforce Development Board

Larry Sassano, Economic Development Council serving Okaloosa County

Beth Kirkland, Economic Development Council of Tallahassee/Leon County

Kim Bodine, Gulf Coast Workforce Board

Bill Stanton, Jackson County Development Council

Rick Marcum, Opportunity Florida

Charles Wood, Pensacola Bay Area Chamber of Commerce

Cindy Anderson, TEAM Santa Rosa

Scarlett Phaneuf, Walton County Economic Development Alliance

Mary Lou Reed, Workforce Board of Okaloosa-Walton Counties

Kim Moore, Workforce Plus

Education Partners

Jeff Stevenson, Gulf Coast Community College

David Goetsch, Northwest Florida State College

Jim Murdaugh, [Tallahassee Community College](#)

Jack Azzaretto, University of West Florida

Associate Partners

Fred Leopold, Community Bank, Destin

Rick Bitner, Farm Credit of Northwest Florida

Lawrence Saunders, SunTrust Bank

Chuck Faulkner, Goodwyn, Mills & Cawood

Ted Kirchharr, Landrum Professional

Bob Blackerby, Magnum Capital

Mary Moulton, Moulton Properties

Steve Peranich, Roy Anderson Corp

Bobby Pickles, Progress Energy

Eric Miller, CenturyLink

Inmates earn their GEDs

By Amanda Curcio

DEMOCRAT STAFF WRITER

Quincy Annex inmates ready to receive their high school diplomas Thursday marched through the doorway as familiar notes from "Pomp and Circumstance" filled the room.

"Thank you for giving us a chance to become positive members of society," said the class salutatorian, Mitchell Vliet, during his commencement ceremony speech. "My negative situation turned into a positive outcome. You taught me to use this place as a stepping stone."

Vliet, 21, was convicted on a felony count of leaving a crash scene with a fatality and sentenced in August to three years of incarceration. He and 24 other inmates studied math, reading, writing, social studies and science subjects for three months — about 60 hours every week — to complete their GED certifications. A majority of the classes were taught by fellow inmates.

The GED program, spearheaded by inmates Andrew Foster and Anthony Ponds, started two years ago at Quincy Annex, an adult Department of Corrections facility for men that houses 408 inmates. Foster and Ponds both attended college before their incarceration.

"Back then, we were given a couple of instructional GED books," Foster said. "We developed the curriculum from scratch."

The program grew within months. A grant of nearly \$97,000 from [Tallahassee Community College](#) provided inmates with a few instructors — although most of the teaching is still conducted by inmate tutors — and supplies like pens, paper, books and practice exams.

"The inmates in the GED program were at first reluctant, but they fed off our enthusiasm," Ponds said. "In this setting, it is hard to find enthusiasm, but we're here to give them support."

"When inmates do get out, they will be less likely to re-offend," Foster added.

Foster and Ponds' testimony is not just anecdotal.

Almost a third of inmates will return to prison for a new offense within three years, according to a Florida Department of Corrections study released in May 2010. However, those with GEDs recidivate at a rate 7.9 percent less than inmates overall.

Many Quincy Annex inmates said that receiving a GED helped them begin plans for a brighter future.

Vliet said that he will pursue his goal of becoming an architect when he gets out. Another inmate, Robert Hatfield, the class valedictorian whose GED score is in the nation's top percentile, said that he feels more on track in pursuing his dream of opening a restaurant. He was sentenced in July to a year and four months for aggravated assault.

Other inmates expressed interest in medicine, social work and community service.

DOC statistics also show that the number of inmates in the state that earn GED certificates have almost doubled in the last three years. In fiscal year 2006-2007, 1,313 inmates were awarded GEDs, and in FY 2009-2010, 2,603 inmates completed GED certification.

This rise in GED completions applies to the Quincy Annex too; five GED classes took place in 2010 alone.

"We anticipate nearly 40 percent of inmates will have a GED by the end of the year," said a DOC administrator, Darryl Ellis. "Wardens are now more focused on emphasizing the importance of education."

[UPDATE] Fla. Unemployment Numbers Worsen in November

By: AP

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. (AP) --

Florida labor officials report the state's unemployment rate is worsening with 12 percent of the state's work force now idled.

The Agency For Workforce Innovation reported Friday, Dec. 17 that more than 1.1 million Floridians were jobless in November. The agency says 55 of Florida's 67 counties reported double-digit unemployment for the month.

Florida's unemployment rate stood at 11.9 percent in October and the November figures were far worse than the national unemployment average of 9.8 percent.

Stay with WCTV for details.

Officials noted that the counties with the lowest unemployment rates were those with relatively high proportions of government employment.

Workforce Plus Statement:

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. – The U.S. Department of Labor released employment and unemployment estimates for November 2010 today. These numbers reflect job growth in the Education and Health Services, Professional and Business Services, Leisure and Hospitality and Other Services (memberships/organizations) industries over the year. To take advantage of local job opportunities, WORKFORCE plus encourages job seekers in Gadsden, Leon and Wakulla counties to attend the 8th annual "Get Connected" Job Fair January 18, 2011 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Leon County Civic Center. Sponsored in part by Capital City Bank, [Tallahassee Community College](#), Economic Development Council of Tallahassee/Leon County, St. Marks Powder, MGT of America, Blank & Meenan.

The unemployment rates in the three counties that comprise the WORKFORCE plus region were 11.0 percent in Gadsden, 8.7 percent in Leon and 8.7 percent in Wakulla. Gadsden County's unemployment rate is .8 percentage points higher than the October 2010 rate. Leon County's unemployment rate is .9 percentage points higher than the October 2010 rate. Wakulla County's unemployment rate is .8 percentage points higher than the October 2010 rate.

TAG blog:Town-gown project's goal: enhancing

Imagine Florida's capital city without state government – without the Capitol. It doesn't register. Tallahassee was carved out of North Florida woods almost 200 years ago because leaders of the state wanted a convenient capital city. It's why Tallahassee is here. Now imagine Tallahassee without Florida State University. Or Florida A&M. Or [Tallahassee Community College](#). "Tallahassee without its major universities and community college would be like a three-legged stool with only one and a half legs," said Mike Pate, former publisher of the Tallahassee Democrat. "It would fall over." After retiring from the newspaper business in 2005, Pate was a John S. and James L. Knight Foundation program director. In that capacity, he helped provide funding and leadership for a variety of initiatives including the Knight Creative Communities Institute (KCCI), Sustainable Tallahassee, the Tallahassee Film Festival, and Get Gaines Going. Now a private consultant, Pate has spent more than a year laying the foundation for a new initiative that he and other local leaders believe can be a catalyst for turning a terrific community into an even better place to live and work. They've named it Town and Gown Tallahassee – TAG – and Pate, the project director, already has funding commitments for more than \$150,000. The most recent is a one-year grant of \$23,000 from the Knight Foundation Donor Advised Fund. Other major donors include FSU, FAMU, TCC, the City of Tallahassee, and Leon County. Additional partners include the TCC Foundation, Leon County Schools, the Chamber of Commerce, The Village Square, and KCCI. Many Tallahasseeans, including university presidents and elected leaders, acknowledge that town and gown could and should be more collaborative. "I am excited by the opportunity that the town and gown relations project presents to forge a stronger bond with our neighbors in the local community," said Florida State University President Eric J. Barron. "The city of Tallahassee and FSU face many of the same challenges, but we also share many of the same opportunities. This initiative will serve as an important reminder that our futures are inextricably linked, and that we work best when we work together." FAMU President James Ammons added: "We are looking forward to partnering with local businesses, governmental entities and neighboring institutions through this town and gown initiative. "I believe that from the well-established relationships that we have built over the years, we can collaborate on economic initiatives and help provide a more enriching environment for all of our citizens. I'm pleased that FAMU is able to help support the effort."

When town and gown don't cooperate effectively, Pate said, it means a bridge is only half as strong as it needs to be. Occasionally it means a bridge is burned. Pate likens it to a ballet dancer wearing hiking boots. "What I've seen happen too often is an opportunity for a graceful turn or dramatic leap instead became an awkward stumble," he said. "A key objective of TAG Tallahassee is development of a single, effective process to bring town and gown together to resolve issues, and build more trust." The goal, Pate added, is for both town and gown to get beyond acknowledging that they have a mutual interest in collaborating, and to do it routinely. "The broader community, which we're all part of, will be a better place," he said, "in part because the result will be more jobs." While Pate has been securing financial commitments, representatives from the partners have met several times this year to plan the project. In addition, Oppenheim Research of Tallahassee for the past two months surveyed 700 local residents and 70 community leaders to develop data on how town-gown relations are perceived. In early 2011, information from the surveys will be presented at several town hall forums, moderated by The Village Square. Representatives from other cities where universities are located will share "best practices" in town-gown relations that enhanced their communities. The objective, Pate said, is for Tallahassee "to make collaboration routine and produce transformational change in our town-gown relations." "We will actively engage the community in discussions about town and gown relations and how improving them can create dramatic change," he said. The final phase of what is expected to be a two-year process will be the development of teams with broad citizen representation that identify and complete projects whose goal is a new way of work for both town and gown in Tallahassee. "This will allow us to pursue partnerships that diversify our economy beyond government and higher education," Pate said, "while we build the sense of place that will attract and retain the college graduates and young professionals who will help lead us into the future."

TCC Health Care Students Give Year-Round

Reporter: TCC Release

The season of giving is upon us, yet for Tallahassee Community College's health care students giving is a year-round tradition. Every semester, TCC students from a variety of health care disciplines use their skills to give back to the local community.

The Walton SUN - December 21, 2010

Florida's Great Northwest appoints a new president

Santa Rosa Beach FL

Florida's Great Northwest, the 16-county, regional economic development organization of Northwest Florida, has announced the appointment of a new president, Don Kirkman. At the organization's board meeting in December, the Board of Directors voted unanimously to hire Kirkman following a nationwide search. Kirkman will take the helm on Jan. 1 and operate out of the organization's Destin, corporate office.

An economic developer, Kirkman most recently served as president and CEO of the Piedmont Triad Partnership in North Carolina, a 12-county economic development organization. He was chosen because of his extensive background in regional economic development including marketing, business recruitment, government relations and fundraising.

"Don is the ideal person to lead Florida's Great Northwest in fostering strong public/private relationships and engaging key partners to brand and market the region and to help diversify our regional economy," said Jeff Helms, practice manager and vice president of PBS&J and Florida's Great Northwest Chairman of the Board. "For the past 10 years, Don has been the president of an organization recognized as one of the top regional economic development groups in the country. His past experience makes him a perfect fit for Northwest Florida and will allow Florida's Great Northwest to achieve its strategic goals."

"By joining the Florida's Great Northwest team," said Kirkman, "I will have the opportunity to work with public and private partners that are poised to further distinguish Northwest Florida's strengths and assets. Together we will work to grow and diversify the economy of Northwest Florida and make Florida's Great Northwest one of the nation's premier regional partnerships for economic and

workforce development."

Kirkman received his B.A. and J.D. degrees from the University of North Carolina. He practiced law for 10 years in New York City and Morehead City, North Carolina before becoming executive director of the Carteret County, North Carolina, Economic Development Council, a position he held for 10 years. He was hired as president and CEO of the Piedmont Triad Partnership in 2000.

During his tenure with the Piedmont Triad Partnership, Kirkman wrote a successful proposal for a \$15 million U.S. Department of Labor Workforce Innovation in Regional Economic Development (WIRED) grant. In addition, the organization was recognized as one of the Top 10 Economic Development Groups in North America by Site Selection magazine for 2005, 2006 and 2007.

Kirkman has published several articles and is a frequent guest speaker. He is a certified economic developer and a former president of the North Carolina Economic Developers Association.

In addition to Kirkman's appointment, the 2011 Board of Directors was approved during December's annual meeting.

Florida's Great Northwest 2011 Board of Directors

Sustaining Partners

John Hutchinson, Gulf Power Company

Bentina Terry, Gulf Power Company

Ed Gardner, PowerSouth Energy Cooperative

Kevin Johnson, The St. Joe Company

Florida's Great Northwest appoints a new president....

continued

Corporate Partners

Jeff Helms, PBS&J

Denise Barton, Sacred Heart Health System

EDO/Workforce Partners

Janet Watermeier, Bay County Economic Development Alliance

Richard Williams, Chipola Regional Workforce Development Board

Larry Sassano, Economic Development Council serving Okaloosa County

Beth Kirkland, Economic Development Council of Tallahassee/Leon County

Kim Bodine, Gulf Coast Workforce Board

Bill Stanton, Jackson County Development Council

Rick Marcum, Opportunity Florida

Charles Wood, Pensacola Bay Area Chamber of Commerce

Cindy Anderson, TEAM Santa Rosa

Scarlett Phaneuf, Walton County Economic Development Alliance

Mary Lou Reed, Workforce Board of Okaloosa-Walton Counties

Kim Moore, Workforce Plus

Education Partners

Jeff Stevenson, Gulf Coast Community College

David Goetsch, Northwest Florida State College

Jim Murdaugh, [Tallahassee Community College](#)

Jack Azzaretto, University of West Florida

Associate Partners

Fred Leopold, Community Bank, Destin

Rick Bitner, Farm Credit of Northwest Florida

Lawrence Saunders, SunTrust Bank

Chuck Faulkner, Goodwyn, Mills & Cawood

Ted Kirzharr, Landrum Professional

Bob Blackerby, Magnum Capital

Mary Moulton, Moulton Properties

Steve Peranich, Roy Anderson Corp

Bobby Pickles, Progress Energy

Eric Miller, CenturyLink

Briefcase

Briefcase is a roundup of new hires, appointments and promotions of individuals in the business community. It appears Thursday and Sunday as space permits.

FINANCE

John Morgan has joined Hancock Bank as a business banker for the Tallahassee region. Morgan brings experience in commercial banking and will work with Tallahassee area businesses in finding financial solutions.

Lisa D. Brown has been hired as the president and CEO of the Tallahassee-Leon Federal Credit Union. She has a master's degree in business administration and the Certified Credit Union Executive designation.

NONPROFITS

The [Tallahassee Community College](#) Foundation has announced the leadership for its Health Care Provision and Excellence Campaign. Chairing the campaign is Doug Bell, who will also serve as the campaign's board division chair. The foundation has also announced that John Hogan, president and CEO of Capital Health Plan, will serve as honorary chair.

WTXL - January 3, 2011

TPD welcomes nine new officers

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. - The Tallahassee Police Department welcomed newcomers as police chief Dennis Jones swore in nine new officers.

The officers were sworn in at City Hall.

Chief Jones revealed that the officers were much needed and have filled many vacancies because of retirements.

In addition to months of training, the officers all have years of experience with other law enforcement agencies such as [Tallahassee Community College](#) and the Florida Highway Patrol.

Innovation Park board member Bill Hebrock dies at 55

by Gerald Ensley

DEMOCRAT SENIOR WRITER

Bill Hebrock, who served on the boards of Innovation Park and [Tallahassee Community College](#), died Tuesday morning.

Hebrock, 55, had suffered several health problems in recent months.

Hebrock was a noted Republican lobbyist and fund-raiser, who served as an advisor to Florida governors Jeb Bush and Charlie Crist.

Hebrock was one of the leaders in last year's investigation of Innovation Park's office manager, Shanna Lewis, who was eventually convicted on federal charges of embezzling more than \$647,000 and sentenced to 8 1/2 years in federal prison.

Innovation Park board chairman Phil Blank said Hebrock "continuously asked questions" and "tried to get answers" about Innovation Park's finances long before Lewis was charged.

"You wonder where we'd be today if people had given more consideration to the questions he raised," Blank said. "He had a lot of foresight and a lot of heart in respect to his responsibilities as member of a public body."

Funeral arrangements are pending.



Bill Hebrock, 55, was a key Republican adviser, lobbyist

BY GERALD ENSLEY

DEMOCRAT SENIOR WRITER

Bill Hebrock, a lobbyist with a passion for community service, died Tuesday morning.

Hebrock, 55, had suffered several health problems in recent months.

Hebrock was a noted Republican lobbyist and fundraiser, who served as an adviser for the successful campaigns of Florida governors Bob Martinez, Jeb Bush and Charlie Crist. A former chairman of the Leon County Republican Party, he also served on national campaign committees of Presidents George H. Bush and George W. Bush.

Appointed to numerous boards during his career, he was currently serving on the boards of Innovation Park and [Tallahassee Community College](#), as well as on the boards of local nonprofit agencies such as Boys and Girls Clubs of the Big Bend.

"Bill Hebrock was a dedicated public servant as well as a successful lobbyist," said Bob Rackleff, a former Leon County Commissioner. "We didn't share the same political philosophies, but he was a good example of how personal values are much more important than political ideologies. He was honest and straightforward and always very candid."

Hebrock was a leader in last year's investigation of Innovation Park's office manager, Shanna Lewis, who was eventually convicted on federal charges of embezzling more than \$647,000 and sentenced to 8 1/2 years in federal prison. Innovation Park board chairman Phil Blank said Hebrock "continuously asked questions" and "tried to get answers" about Innovation Park's finances long before Lewis was charged.

"You wonder where we'd be today if people had given more consideration to the questions he raised," Blank said. "He had a lot of foresight and a lot of heart in respect to his responsibilities as a member of a public body."

Hebrock, a graduate of Ohio State, had served since 1999 as a trustee of TCC, including a term as chairman in

2001-2002. He was a fixture at TCC athletic events and an advocate of TCC involvement in the community, spurring efforts to help laid-off migrant workers and seafood workers affected by the BP oil spill.



"Bill confronted conventional thinking often and that created a good dynamic," said Bill Law, TCC president from 2002-2010. "He was devoted to our students; he cared deeply about students."

Hebrock also had a passion for causes such as help for the blind and adoptions. He was an annual sponsor of the Dining in the Dark fundraiser for the Lighthouse of the Big Bend, which provides job training for the blind. Hebrock and his wife, Anne, adopted a daughter, who is now a teenager.

"He was very warm-hearted and cared intensely about blindness and adoptions," said Barbara Ross, executive director of Lighthouse of the Big Bend. "He let the money he made in the corporate world help people."

Funeral arrangements are pending.

Two men killed, four others injured in single-car wreck

By TONY BRITT

A car carrying several students back to school from the holiday break crashed into a pine tree Wednesday in northern Columbia County, killing two and injuring four of the vehicle's occupants, including one in critical condition, authorities said.

Kendrick Kevin Maurice of Miramar and Scott Thompson of Pembroke Pines were killed in the wreck.

Christopher S. Guillaume of Hollywood was critically injured in the wreck, while Delano Powell of Plantation, Jeremy W. Florvil of Pembroke Pines and Emmanuel Bautista suffered serious injuries. The victims' ages ranged from 18 to 21.

Reports said none of the vehicle's occupants were wearing seat belts.

The wreck occurred at around 6:55 a.m. Wednesday on I-75, about two miles south of Interstate 10.

"They were going back to Tallahassee and some go to school at [Tallahassee Community College](#)," said Lt. Pat Riordan, FHP public affairs officer for Troop B.

Riordan said a trooper on the scene told him that a statement was made by one of the survivors saying they (students) were headed back to TCC.

According to Florida Highway Patrol reports, Maurice was driving a 2004 Pontiac four-door sedan north on Interstate 75 with Thompson riding in the front seat as a passenger. The others were riding in the rear seat.

Authorities said the vehicle was traveling at a high-rate of speed when, for unknown reasons, it left the roadway on the eastern shoulder, began rotating clockwise and went slightly airborne before striking a pine tree with its left side.

Maurice and Thompson were pronounced dead at the scene by Columbia County EMS workers, while the four other passengers were ejected when the car crashed into the tree.

Authorities said the investigation is only in its preliminary stage.

"With six people in the vehicle, and this being a death investigation of two of the people in the vehicle, a full and in-depth investigation could take 60-90 days," Riordan said.

He said authorities will consider several angles, including what occurred prior to, during and after the crash.

"We're going to look at the driver's actions, any of the passengers' actions, the vehicle's safety features," he said, "and we'll be looking at the factors as far as safety, defects and anything else that might have had an impact on this (crash)."

Bonnie Holub: 'Oil spill' classes return

TCC Wakulla Center offers new round of free courses

Bonnie Holub

WAKULLA COUNTY

We know the Deepwater Horizon oil spill was big news, not only in these parts, but across the nation. According to the Associated Press' annual poll of U.S. editors and news directors, the massive oil spill was the top news story of 2010.

From the moment the oil spill began on April 20 until it was capped on July 15, the Wakulla community, along with folks everywhere, envisioned the worst in environmental damage: thick, oil-tainted waters; multitudes of dead and dying sea creatures; and in the Gulf, the end of commercial fishing and recreational pursuits as we know them, for years to come. Luckily, for Wakulla, these dismal consequences did not happen in the magnitude feared. However, the overblown perception of the oil spill situation along our coast caused a downward spiral of economic activity for local businesses, already struggling because of the national economic downturn. As a result, many working in commercial fishing or tourist-related businesses lost jobs, or at least steady employment, causing a dark economic tide throughout the community.

Enter [Tallahassee Community College](#), an educational partner with a strong presence in Wakulla County. Shortly after the oil spill, the TCC Board of Trustees allocated \$50,000 to assist those in Wakulla County adversely affected by the spill. Since everyone in Wakulla County was, and still is, affected directly or indirectly, it was decided the allocation would be used to offer free classes to all Wakulla residents through TCC Wakulla Center, located in Crawfordville (writer Bonnie Holub is director of the TCC Wakulla Center). TCC Wakulla Center is an extension of TCC Center for Workforce Development, with a curriculum focused on professional development noncredit classes designed to assist participants in acquiring job skills that can lead to better employment opportunities, job performance and work satisfaction.

The first round of free classes took place last fall. The

number of seats filled in the computer, hospitality, solar thermal and select green guide classes totaled 241 (though some people took more than one class). Those taking the classes ranged in age from the 20s to the 80s, although most were in their mid-30s to mid-50s. One of the most popular classes, which may surprise many — but not those of us born before 1960 — was Getting Started with Computers.

"The decision by TCC to offer the classes free to all residents of Wakulla was very generous, and it is appreciated," said Julie Durrance who attended computer classes. Durrance is a stay-at-home mom who operates a small, home-based business. "I've lost customers because of the current economic situation. Everyone really is affected by this, and the TCC classes provide an opportunity to learn new skills, become more job ready, and (the classes) look good on a resume."

A longtime Wakulla commercial fisherman, Danny Harrell, contacted me last week to inquire if the TCC free classes were still available. Harrell is making needed adjustments in his work situation and said it was time to acquire computer skills. He completed the TCC Green Guide Certification Course and is planning to develop a guiding business. So he's interested in taking Getting Started with Computers.

Harrell's in luck. Beginning on Jan. 17, a new round of free "oil spill response" classes will begin, with a repeat offering of select computer classes, including Getting Started with Computers, in addition to more advanced programs such as Excel and QuickBooks. Manufacturing classes are a new addition to the roster this round, and they include an Introduction to CNC Machining Lathe Operator and a series of manufacturing fundamentals classes.

The TCC free classes continue the big "oil spill" news, but this time it's of the good news kind.

Sue Dick: Let's work on this together, Tallahassee

Sue Dick

MY VIEW

With the biggest change of power in one election cycle under way, the Greater Tallahassee Chamber of Commerce and the Economic Development Council of Tallahassee/Leon County (EDC) encourage the community to welcome our new leaders, acknowledge the hard work they have in front of them and work with them.

The chamber provides resources, tools and opportunities to a membership of nearly 1,600 local businesses representing 52,000 employees. The EDC, an affiliate of the chamber, is a public/private partnership among the city, county and private investors who are committed to creating jobs and building a stronger business community. By connecting the private sector, universities and local government, the EDC helps join forces to enhance local businesses, grow targeted industry sectors and attract innovative companies to our area.

The chamber has created a State Government Task Force consisting of volunteer private sector leaders with one mission: to ensure a vibrant business sector in the region. Our task force will do this by coordinating the actions of the local business community, universities and state government. But we also need your help.

We need each of you to work with us as we inform Florida's elected leaders on what makes Tallahassee so great. While we are proud to be Florida's capital city and home to the Florida Legislature, we are so much more. Tallahassee is a private-sector job creator and work force developer.

Small businesses are the backbone of this community. They have worked hard through these challenging economic times. In addition they are creating jobs every day in targeted sectors that will lead to smart and sustainable growth in the area for years to come. These targeted industry sectors match the region's strengths, goals and assets, as well as provide for a diversified and sustainable regional economy.

The targeted sectors are Advanced Manufacturing;

Health Sciences & Human Performance Enhancement; Information Technology; Renewable Energy and Environment; Aviation, Aerospace, Defense & National Security; and Transportation & Logistics — as well as the supporting fields of engineering and research. They were chosen for their opportunity for growth, creation of quality jobs above the average wage, role in regional development and connections to other industries. Corporate headquarters are also being established, which means more tax revenue. Not to mention, Tallahassee is also home to the nation's No.1 HMO, Capital Health Plan, and a health sciences employment sector over 20,000 strong.

Tallahassee is also empowering entrepreneurs. One example of this is the EDC's new Entrepreneurial Excellence Program, a course created to arm existing but early-stage start-up businesses, as well as entrepreneurs with well-developed ideas, with the resources and knowledge needed to enhance their chances of success. This course explores the realities of planning and starting a company, and helps individuals plan for the successful development and launch of a business.

As the eastern sub-region of Florida's Great Northwest, Tallahassee is home to two of Florida's universities, Florida State University and Florida A&M University, and one of the largest community colleges in the state, [Tallahassee Community College](#). An emphasis on licensing of technology at both universities backed by cutting-edge work force training programs at TCC is at the core of new company formations and job creation.

Tallahassee's K-12 public schools are also among the nation's best. The U.S. Department of Education has recognized Leon County Schools as being one of only a handful of districts in the country where students achieved Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP). Along with mainstream classes, Leon County Schools offer a wide range of career academies and programs that can be tailored to students' needs and interests. International Baccalaureate, ROTC (Air Force, Navy and Army), Instructional Technology and specialized programs are

Sue Dick: Let's work on this together, Tallahassee....

continued

available at schools, while career programs in fields such as nursing, graphic arts, business education and dental hygiene are available to students and the general public.

The chamber and EDC are also hard at work making sure that the business community has the tools and resources needed to thrive. This is achieved through tactics ranging from networking opportunities, professional development and advocacy, to securing grants and tax incentives, helping relocate buildings and developing training programs for their work force needs.

Our organizations are resource hubs for all companies that are looking to improve the quality of life for our residents by providing good jobs and contributing to the well-being of the Tallahassee area.

While we will work hard to support Tallahassee's government jobs, we are also committed to ensuring a vibrant business sector for the capital region. We hope you will join us and Gov. Rick Scott in the hard work ahead.

so let's work together.

Tallahassee Democrat - January 9, 2011

Analysts see gradual improvement in hiring

Health care offers most job prospects locally

By Dave Hodges

DEMOCRAT BUSINESS EDITOR

No facet of the economy in the past year or in 2011 commands more attention from more people than the job market.

From the halls of Congress to the office of new Gov. Rick Scott to Tallahassee City Hall, leaders seek answers to high unemployment rates while more than 17,600 residents in Leon, Gadsden, Jefferson and Wakulla counties continue to comb the job listings and fill out applications in hopes of landing work.

The search can be long, tiresome and a test of one's resolve.

"It definitely does weigh on you," said insurance claims adjuster and business manager W. Scot Wilbourn, who has been job hunting since early October when his previous employer had a round of layoffs.

"The way I think about it is I look at it as a job," he said of the daily effort to check leads and send out resumes.

Wilbourn and others in the hunt may be encouraged by the outlook. Labor market analysts, workforce developers and those knowledgeable about local industry segments

see a gradual improvement in hiring and can point to where it's likely to occur.

According to the U.S. Department of Labor's most recent Job Openings and Turnover Summary, the U.S. job market now has 3.4 million openings — the highest level since August 2008.

Though unemployment persists, this increase in open positions is a good sign that there are more options for job seekers, analysts say.

Last week, the latest ADP National Employment Report, a widely followed jobs measurement, showed that U.S. private-sector employment rose by 297,000 in December. It was the highest monthly gain since the report's inception in 2000 and double what was expected by many economists.

Friday, the federal government reported that the U.S. unemployment rate dropped to 9.4 percent in December as employers added 103,000 jobs during the month — far fewer than expected, but still a gain.

Recovery will take time

Analysts see gradual improvement in hiring....

continued

The return to lower unemployment rates will be slow. Florida, once the national leader in employment growth, became a leading loser of jobs as the Great Recession continued.

The recession put the brakes on real estate, construction and the financial industry, ensuring that the downhill slide would be dramatic and lasting.

Florida had a job-loss rate of -6.9 percent in the worst part of the recession, but now is back to a 0.5-percent gain — not much, but economist Rebecca Rust, director of labor market statistics at the state's Agency for Workforce Innovation, and other employment officials will take it.

"We have been positive for five months in a row now, and prior to that it was negative for three years. So 2010 was a good year, but we still have a long way to go," she said of Florida's figures.

The term "jobs," it should be noted, means not workers but positions filled. That count is based on a survey of establishments polled for the state statistics. It is possible, in fact, for a worker to be counted twice if he or she is employed in two locations at the same time, Rust explained.

Florida now is the sixth-highest on the list of job gainers. It added 36,200 for the 12 months ending in November, the latest figures available. That was the 0.5-percent improvement.

Health care leading sector in region

In the Big Bend, the employment picture looks the best in health industry professions, as is evident across the state.

For Leon County, there were 5,158 Internet job postings in November, up 29 percent from the 3,998 in November 2009, according to The Conference Board's Help Wanted OnLine, a statistical snapshot of employment ads on the web prepared by the independent business membership and research organization.

Registered nurses were most in demand with 255 ads, followed by retail salespeople with 159 ads, computer systems analysts with 151, information technology project managers with 130 and web developers at 110. Most all of the top categories were up over year-ago levels.

Health-care positions represent a leading sector for growth. Rust said that will continue in this area and across the state, driven by population growth and aging residents, the availability of more treatments, more home care and more outpatient services.

Tallahassee better than other areas

According to Workforce Plus CEO Kimberly Moore, the top-five list of jobs advertised in this area on all known job boards are registered nurses, computer systems analysts, web developers, first-line supervisors in retail sales and executive secretaries.

As for most recent job growth, Moore said 2010 totals through Nov. 30 showed more than 700 came in "other services," which include nonprofits — a major employment sector in the Tallahassee area.

"Education and health services" was next with 600-plus jobs; "leisure and hospitality," 100-plus jobs; and "professional and business services," 100-plus jobs.

"Throughout the economic downturn or slowing of the economy, our region has maintained somewhat of a buffer that has afforded us one of the lowest unemployment rates in the state," Moore noted.

The Tallahassee metropolitan statistical area — Leon, Gadsden, Jefferson and Wakulla counties — was third-best in November at 9 percent, behind only Gainesville and the Crestview-Fort Walton Beach-Destin MSA (both 8.7 percent).

Tallahassee area unemployment, however, remains high by historic comparison. In December 2007, the rate for the four counties was 3.4 percent. Leon County was 3.2 percent that month.

Returning to those levels will take years, but for some the rebound in hiring has started.

"We are finally replacing people in jobs that have been vacant, and that's encouraging," said Judy Gray, president and CEO of the Florida Society of Association Executives, which is based in Tallahassee.

Gray reports that many business-related membership organizations are holding their own and continuing to provide services, meetings and other functions. She

Analysts see gradual improvement in hiring....

continued

detects a sense of optimism among their executives.

Government jobs down

Total government employment across Florida declined by 7,900 jobs in November, compared to the same month a year ago. Rust said there was a loss in federal government positions because of workforce reductions in the postal service and census employment.

Elsewhere, county and municipal staffs are smaller because of continuing financial pressures. The latest AWI figures show the Tallahassee area down more than 100 jobs in the government category.

Mushroom farm brings boost to Gadsden

Though Leon County has had an unemployment rate that is among the lowest in the state, it is still high historically, while neighboring Gadsden County has seen little relief.

One source of employment in Gadsden will make a comeback in 2011. A mushroom farm that was Gadsden County's largest private employer until it closed two years ago has been purchased by Gamboa Brothers of West Grove, Pa.

The company intends to resume production at the property on State Road 267 south of Quincy and is expected to recruit 200 to 300 people the first year. Hiring is to begin in March.

"I am thrilled to see this facility reopen and am excited about the economic impact this will have in Gadsden County," said David Gardner, executive director of the Gadsden County Chamber of Commerce.

Displaced workers turn to training

As the job market has weakened, area educators have responded with more emphasis on training and helping displaced workers transition to other careers.

At [Tallahassee Community College](#), January marks the start of the Tech@Night program Tuesday night from 6 to 9 p.m. with a free session entitled "Computer Basics" at TCC's Capitol Center downtown. The session is repeated Thursday night in Quincy at the TCC Quincy House.

Tech@Night workshops cover other topics ranging from Adobe Photoshop applications to web design. A complete listing is available at workforce.tcc.fl.edu by clicking on the Tech@Night link.

These are \$25 a night and can prepare employees for upgrading their technology skills and to give displaced employees new skills to find job opportunities, according to John Chapin, TCC's vice president of workforce development.

As for other fields, there are numerous choices.

"Job possibilities are still strong in the allied health professions," Chapin said. "We are offering programs in Electronic Health Information Specialist, Pharmacy Technician, Certified Nursing Assistant and Medical Front Office."

TCC also opened the Advanced Manufacturing Training Center in 2010, offering training in a variety of skills important to the manufacturing businesses in the region, as well as to those companies contemplating Tallahassee as a new location. That course information is available at workforce.tcc.fl.edu/manufacturing.main content

Tallahassee company provides housing for TCC international students

Reported by: Russell Motley

RMOTLEY@WTXL.TV

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. – Continuing a partnership that began in 2007, Student Housing Solutions, for a fourth consecutive year, has made a significant contribution to [Tallahassee Community College](#).

The donation will enable international students at TCC to secure housing accommodations for the 2010-11 academic year at one of Student Housing Solutions' properties free of charge.

"This is a huge benefit for students who are already saddled with the cost of out-of-state tuition," added Johnston. "In addition, international students face some particular challenges when it comes to housing, as it is much more difficult for them to provide evidence of financial stability or good previous tenancy relationships."

According to Betty Jensen, International Student Adviser, the scholarship sets TCC apart from other community colleges in Florida.

"International students, unlike their American counterparts, cannot work off-campus while in school," said Jensen. "Because of that, the housing scholarship is significant."

The latest gift from Student Housing Solutions will be presented to TCC during a 2 p.m. ceremony on Wednesday, January 12. The event will take place in the Grand Banquet Hall at the College's Center for Workforce Development.

Student Housing Solutions is the largest locally owned and operated housing provider specializing in Tallahassee's student housing market. Portofino Villas, located directly adjacent to TCC's main campus, is one of the 20 communities within the Student Housing Solutions family.

Tech@Night Technology Workshops Have Returned

REPORTER: TCC RELEASE

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. (January 11, 2011) —

Tallahassee Community College's popular Tech@Night technology workshops have returned for Spring 2011. Individuals in need of short-term, one-night training sessions in multimedia, current technology and upcoming computer technologies can take customized, instructor-led workshops for basic to intermediate level training.

"These classes are a quick and easy way to stay current with the most up-to-date applications and operating systems," said Beverly Smith, Tech@Night coordinator.

The Tech@Night series will continue its workshops on Office 2007, Office 2010, Windows 7, Adobe products such as Illustrator, Indesign, Dreamweaver and Flash, as well as courses on foundational computer skills (computer basics, Internet fundamentals and e-mail). Classes on digital photography and social media tools are also being offered. A detailed schedule of classes is available at workforce.tcc.fl.edu/tech@night.

TCC develops the schedule of workshops based on the most sought-after skills. Participants can take either a single workshop or an entire series.

"This program offers something for everyone," said Smith. "It's for the individual who wants to learn more about their personal computer, the employer who wants to upgrade employee skills and the employee who wants to improve skills for a current or future job."

Classes meet at three locations in the Big Bend area: The Quincy House, the TCC Wakulla Center and the TCC Capitol Center. Classes run from 6:15 p.m. – 9 p.m. at the TCC Capitol Center and from 6:00 p.m. – 9 p.m. at the other locations. The early registration fee is only \$25 and walk-in registration costs \$30.

For more information, call the Center for Workforce Development at (850) 201-8760 or visit workforce.tcc.fl.edu/tech@night.

WTVX - January 13, 2011

Dick Gregory Speaks at TCC

Reporter: Lanetra Bennett

EMAIL ADDRESS: LANETRA.BENNETT@WCTV.TV

Tallahassee Community College celebrates one Civil Rights activist with the special visit from another.

Dick Gregory was the keynote speaker for TCC's Second Annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Commemorative Breakfast Wednesday morning.

Gregory--a renowned comedian, civil rights activist, and spokesman for health care issues--says speaking to students in honor of King's birthday is a great honor.

Gregory said, "It's good because 50 percent of everybody alive in America today wasn't born when King was killed. Seventy percent of the people in the world wasn't born when King was killed. Two hundred years from now, Americans will really understand who King was."

Gregory was one of the first comedians to successfully perform for both black and white audiences.

The civil rights activist does about 240 lectures a year.

Scholarship Gives Youthful Offenders a New Start

TALLAHASSEE, FL (WFSU) - Gov. Rick Scott is getting good reviews for his choice to lead Florida's Department of Juvenile Justice. It's Wansley Walters, the head of Miami-Dade County's Juvenile Services Department, who reduced juvenile arrests by 51 percent and re-arrests by 80 percent while saving \$33 million. As many professionals in the Florida corrections system are finding, education is critical to turning around the lives of youthful offenders. Margie Menzel reports.

"One of the things I touched on with my probation officer: she said that almost 70 percent of kids will fall back into a group that will re-commit crimes, that will do things over again. There's about 20 percent that fall in between. And then there's that 10 percent that will really stay away [from re-offending]."

Brett Pullen was on track for a baseball scholarship when he got into trouble, said his mother, Celeste.

"We were just heartbroken when Brett got into trouble," she said. "And all of his future, in an instant, over the course of a few weeks...when we realized what the repercussions were, what he had done..."

And it's with the hope of making a difference for young people like Brett that Mary Pankowski created the New Start scholarship. The longtime educator, who served at Florida State and Florida International universities, capped her career by retiring, going to law school, and becoming an assistant state attorney in the Second Judicial Circuit. She's trying to reach the roughly 90 percent of young offenders who, she says, can be drawn back from failure.

"And not just young people's lives," she said. "You think about the parents who get the call from a police officer, a law enforcement officer, who says, Hey, we've got your child in the juvenile detention center. He or she did the following..."

So Pankowski, a member of the [Tallahassee Community College](#) Foundation board of directors, began the New Start Scholarship.

"When I discovered that these young people who we were encouraging to stay in school, get your high school diploma, that they would no longer be eligible if they had committed a felony...they would no longer be eligible for Bright Futures scholarships."

Nor would a youngster in trouble with DJJ keep his or her Take Stock in Children Scholarship. Now Pankowski has raised more than \$100,000 for the New Start scholarship. Brett Pullen, the first recipient says meeting some of his benefactors at a Rotary Club meeting changed his life.

"And it's great to have people like that, because in society nowadays, there's fewer and fewer and fewer people like that, fewer people to give back and more people to take," he said. "And so, to see people like that, it really touched me, and it opened my eyes to the love that there really is out there."

Pankowski says many of the scholarship's supporters come from the juvenile justice system.

Student Housing Solutions works to assist TCC's international students

By Kendra Anderson
DEMOCRAT WRITER

Elliott Johnson might not be in Tallahassee if not for Student Housing Solutions.

Johnson, a native of Australia, chose Tallahassee Community College in large part because of the free housing SHS provides for 10 international students at the college.

"I wasn't going to be able to come if I didn't get this scholarship," Johnson said. "My parents' main concern was where I was going to stay. They were at ease once I got the scholarship."

Johnson and nine other international students at TCC took part in a ceremony Wednesday to show their appreciation for SHS. Thanks to \$250,000 in donations from SHS over the past four years — including \$64,680 for the current school year — TCC covers the cost of five two-person apartments at Portofino Villas, one of SHS' 20 properties.

Betty Jensen, TCC'S international student adviser, describes the scholarship program is a "nice recruiting tool."

SHS co-founder Steven Leoni started the program after his family housed an au pair from Australia who attended TCC. That was when Leoni learned about the challenges first-time international students face when trying to secure housing in the United States.

"Some don't have someone to be a guarantor," said Leon Grinnell, director of sales and marketing at SHS. "Their parents typically don't have a Social Security number or credit background. So we wanted to give back."

Ten recipients are rewarded each school year Jensen explained, with each applicant being selected based on meeting a minimum 2.5 GPA accompanied with an essay explaining why the scholarship will be beneficial to them.

"It's one less thing to worry about," said Johnson, who discovered the scholarship on TCC's website after a friend at Florida State University encouraged him to look into TCC. "I can focus on my work and be able to experience everything America has to offer."

TCC Social Work Professional Gaining National Reputation

REPORTER : TCC RELEASE

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. (January 13, 2011) –

Janet Nelson is a licensed clinical social worker who provides mental health services to [Tallahassee Community College](#) students through TCC's Division of Student Affairs. She also has been a student of the martial arts since 1974 and has taught self-defense for women since 1980. In 1995, Nelson began to see how she could bring together her social work background with her knowledge of self-defense techniques to help social workers and other human services professionals learn how to stay safe while helping others.

In October, Nelson was a presenter at the Council of Social Work Education's annual academic conference in Portland, Oregon. She and researcher Christina Newhill from the University of Pittsburgh led a session titled "Effective Strategies for Teaching Personal Safety Skills to Social Work Students." That opportunity grew out of work Nelson does in her private business, Everyday Self Defensesm for Social Workers.

"Social workers tend to think that their good intentions will be enough to keep them safe," explained Nelson. "But it is important for us to understand the nature of our work. Social workers are on the front lines, often working with desperate people. If the client has mental health issues as well, it can be a volatile combination. We have to be prepared." Nelson has travelled to 11 states to provide training, and taught nearly 400 social workers at the Teri Zenner Safety First Conference held in Kansas in October 2009. Zenner, a social worker, was brutally murdered by a client in 2004.

In Nelson's training, participants spend part of the session up on their feet learning classic physical techniques to help them escape an attacker. She also addresses unique challenges social workers face, such as home visits. "We talk about assessing the situation in advance, figuring out how you would get out, knowing where to sit, when it's time to leave—and recognizing when not to go in the first place."

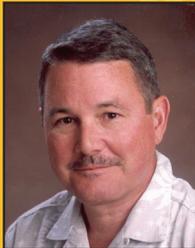
Nelson believes that personal safety must become part of the curriculum for college students who are training as social workers. She also supports legislation to increase penalties for violence against social workers and human services providers. A bill aiming to do that was introduced during last year's session of the Florida Legislature, but failed to make progress.



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