

# TALLAHASSEE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

*In the News*

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May 15, 2011 - , 2011



# TALLAHASSEE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

*In the News*

## Print Media

- Community College Times . . . . . 1
- Florida Capital News. . . . . 1
- Florida Trend Magazine. . . . . 1
- Tallahassee Democrat. . . . . 13
- WCTV . . . . . 7
- WTXL . . . . . 2

## Electronic Media

- May 17 . . . . . WCTV/WTXL . . . . . Tuition increase
- May 19 . . . . . WTXL . . . . . Softball wins opening game at NJCAA Tournament
- May 25 . . . . . WCTV . . . . . FPSI provides training for dangers of texting while driving
- May 27 . . . . . WCTV . . . . . TCC announces Hero Scholarship
- June 2 . . . . . WTXL . . . . . Fostering Achievement Fellowship feature
- June 2 . . . . . WCTV . . . . . TCC Student Maron Butler dies
- June 2 . . . . . WTXL . . . . . TCC softball coaches recognized by NFCA
- June 9 . . . . . WTXL . . . . . Student loans
- June 15 . . . . . WCTV . . . . . TCC ranks No. 9 in Community College Week's Top 100

## Jobs at Bing will vary greatly

BY GERALD ENSLEY

DEMOCRAT SENIOR WRITER

The thing about Bing Energy that has local officials most excited is the potential for increasing local employment.

To meet the terms of its Qualified Target Industry tax refunds, Bing must have 244 employees by 2018 — and the majority are expected to come from the Tallahassee area. The company already has hired nine full-time employees, all from the local area, and expects to continue adding at least two employees a month.

“We have a corporate goal of not hiring outside the city until we drain the talent pool here,” said Dean Minardi, Bing’s chief financial officer. “I have too many friends and neighbors who need jobs.”

Local officials have started improving Tallahassee’s high-tech workforce: Last August, the Advanced Manufacturing Training Center opened at [Tallahassee Community College](#). The program was initiated by former TCC president Bill Law and the Economic Development Council of Tallahassee-Leon County.

### RELATED

Tallahassee may be launch pad for an energy revolution

Bing CFO Dean Minardi known locally for successes, failures

The center trains students in a variety of skills — machine

programming, working with composite materials, hydraulics, pneumatics and motors — needed in high-tech laboratories. Most of the courses involve 40 to 60 hours of training over several weeks.

The program provides training for students who want to improve their job marketability. The center also works with a local manufacturers association and companies such as Bing to provide specific training.

“We have had some discussions with Bing about what we can do to help them grow,” said Bruce Batton, AMTC program manager. “What we stress with Bing or any manufacturer is that we can provide any capabilities they need trained.”

Bing also will need a variety of less-skilled workers — “People miss that we are building a world headquarters; there will be accountants and secretaries and human resource personnel,” Minardi said — and higher skilled workers, such as engineers.

That, too, will benefit Tallahassee, said Beth Kirkland, executive director of the Economic Development Council.

“We may not be rich in experienced engineers here,” Kirkland said. “But what we do have is companies that specialize in recruiting that kind of talent. Companies like that will also benefit (from Bing’s presence).”

## Campus Notes

### TALLAHASSEE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Meet the President event today: TCC is hosting a special Meet the President event from 5 to 7 p.m. today in the Student Union Ballroom on TCC's main campus. The reception will take place immediately following the Board of Trustees meeting. The Meet the President event is the final of three, each one taking place in one of TCC's three service district counties — Gadsden, Leon and Wakulla. The receptions are envisioned as an opportunity for students, government officials, business leaders and community members to be introduced to TCC's president, Jim Murdaugh and to celebrate TCC's partnerships in Leon County.

## Community College Times - May 16, 2011

### Let the spring commencements begin

By Tabitha Whissemore

#### Businesses tip their hats

Industry leaders that are hiring skilled community college graduates have been included in many commencement ceremonies. From the business world, Joseph DeVivo, president of Smith & Nephew Orthopaedics, told graduates of Southwest Tennessee Community College to find their passion, be dependable, include family in their work and give back to their community.

The Fashion Institute of Technology will welcome Aerin Lauder, senior vice president and creative director of Estee Lauder, and Tony Hsieh, chief executive officer of Zappos.com, to speak in two separate ceremonies on May 24. At Western Technical College in Wisconsin, Joel Guberud, vice president and general manager of Chart Energy & Chemicals, spoke on May 13. Guberud is also a alumnus.

At some community colleges, the people who know the students best are taking to the podium. [Tallahassee Community College](#) (TCC) welcomed back former college President T.K. Wetherell. He is credited with helping turn TCC into one of Florida's premier community colleges. The theme of his speech was success.

"Success is not something you want. Success is

something you're willing to work for," Wetherell told graduates.

Rod Risley, executive director of Phi Theta Kappa, the largest honor society in higher education, delivered the keynote at Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College (MGCCC). The college had its largest graduating class in history, which was especially significant to President Willis Lott, who handed out degrees for the last time. Lott is retiring in June after 43 years of work in education and 13 years at MGCCC.

At Terra Community College, Ohio State University President Gordon Gee had the honor of addressing the 357 graduates receiving degrees and certificates. Retiring Camden County College President Sharon Wedington will serve as speaker at the New Jersey college's May 21 ceremony.

For Indiana's Ivy Tech Community College, there are 14 separate ceremonies in May, which means 14 keynote speakers. The college has 12,400 students graduating this year. That's up almost 25 percent from last year. Speakers include U.S. Reps. Todd Rokita and Todd Young and Lumina Foundation President Jamie Merisotis.

## TCC tuition going up 10.5 percent

'This will keep us healthy and robust,' college president says

BY DOUG BLACKBURN

DEMOCRAT SENIOR WRITER

Tuition at [Tallahassee Community College](#) is going to increase by 10.5 percent starting in the fall. It is believed to be the second-largest annual hike in school history.

The college's Board of Trustees had the option of raising tuition as much as 13.5 percent — the board increased tuition by 8 percent for the 2010-2011 school year — but chose to follow the recommendations of President Jim Murdaugh and Teresa Smith, TCC's chief financial officer.

The Legislature had reduced funding for Florida's 28 state and community colleges by 8.1 percent. TCC also is saying goodbye to \$2.4 million in stimulus money, which runs out at the end of June.

Unlike Florida State and Florida A&M universities — which have raised tuition by 15 percent each of the past three years — TCC has weathered the recession without any layoffs.

"This will keep us healthy and robust," Murdaugh said following Monday's unanimous vote by the trustees. "Our challenge is to be accountable and provide a quality education for our students."

The tuition increase will raise the cost of a single credit hour for in-state students from \$85 to \$96, including fees. The average student takes 10 credit hours per semester, said Barbara Sloan, vice president for academic affairs.

Students contacted on Monday were surprised to learn

about the tuition hike. Blake Hammaker, a Godby High graduate finishing up his first year at TCC, estimates his scholarship will no longer cover all his costs.

"I'll probably have to start paying some out of pocket," he said.

Casey Grier, another Godby alum preparing to start his second year, sounded distressed when told about the increase.

"That's not good — that's bad," he said.

This is Murdaugh's first time overseeing a tuition increase at TCC. He was named president in October, replacing Bill Law.

Trustees expressed confidence in Murdaugh, but also wanted to be sure the college is being frugal.

"We need to be doing things differently to make us more cost-efficient," Karen Moore said during a workshop preceding the board meeting.

Allison DeFoor urged TCC's president to monitor the higher education landscape and make sure the college is being competitive.

"Our cushy ride just being the back-door to FSU is over," DeFoor said. "This is heart-attack serious stuff."

## TCC Announces Summer Tech@Night Workshops

REPORTER: TCC RELEASE

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.

The summer schedule kicks off Tuesday, June 14 with the first of two Social Networking workshops and will continue on Tuesdays through July 19. Other Tech@Night workshops scheduled for the summer include Social Networking (June 21), Security: Identity Theft (June 28), How to Take Care of your PC (July 5), Google Docs & Apps (July 12) and Hot Technologies: Smart Phone, iPods and MP3s (July 19).

On Thursdays, June 16-July 21, individuals can participate in the Intro to Game Design series. The Game Design Series can only be taken as a series and no walk-in registrations will be permitted after June 16.

All workshops take place at the TCC Capitol Center, located at 300 West Pensacola Street, from 6:15-9 p.m.

The cost is \$25 for individual workshops and \$150 for the series.

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

WCTV - May 20, 2011

## TCC Will Compete for \$1 Million Aspen Institute Prize

Reporter: TCC Press Release

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. (May 20, 2011) – Tallahassee Community College is preparing its second round application for the Aspen Institute Prize. The Aspen Institute College Excellence Program has already placed TCC among the nation's 120 best community colleges in a list that was announced on April 25. That was the first step for TCC and other colleges competing for \$1 million in prize money.

The prize is a way to focus on the value and potential of community colleges, said Josh Wyner, executive director of the Aspen program. "We must set the bar much higher than we have in the past. Now more than ever, we need community colleges to graduate more students with the knowledge and degrees they need to be successful in the workforce."

The competition was announced in October at the White House Community College Summit hosted by President Obama and Second Lady Dr. Jill Biden. At that time, the President noted how critical community colleges are to the millions of youth and adult learners they serve.

Biden, a lifelong educator, said, "I am inspired by all of today's community college students—the workers who have returned to school to improve their job prospects, the mothers who juggle jobs and childcare while preparing for new careers and those who work diligently

while at community college, preparing to transfer to a four-year institution."

TCC is submitting data by June 17 demonstrating how much students learn, how many students complete their programs on time, and how well students do in the job market after graduation. The group will be winnowed to about 10 finalists in September. Aspen will then conduct site visits to each of the finalists in the fall, and the winner will be announced in December. The prize jury is co-chaired by former Michigan Governor John Engler and former Secretary of Education Richard Riley.

"It is an honor to be part of such an elite group," noted TCC President Jim Murdaugh. "Even more important, however, is that this process gives us another chance to look at our data, reflect on what we are doing, and learn from other outstanding community colleges. We are accountable for students' ability to use what they have learned from our College. Here at TCC we seek to constantly improve our programs, and the only way to do that is by measuring our impact on student success."

For more information about TCC's application for the Aspen Prize, contact the TCC Office of Communications and Public Information at (850) 201-6049 or [COMMUNICATIONS@tcc.fl.edu](mailto:COMMUNICATIONS@tcc.fl.edu).

## TCC Will Compete for \$1 Million Aspen Institute Prize...

*continued*

The Aspen Prize is funded by the Joyce Foundation, the Lumina Foundation for Education, the Bank of America Charitable Foundation and the JPMorgan Chase Foundation.

The Aspen College Excellence Program aims to identify and replicate campus-wide practices that significantly improve college student outcomes. Through the Aspen Prize for Community College Excellence, projects targeting a new generation of college leaders, and other initiatives, the College Excellence Program works to improve colleges' understanding and capacity to teach and graduate students, especially the growing population of low-income and minority students on American campuses. For more information, visit [www.AspenCCPrize.org](http://www.AspenCCPrize.org).

The Aspen Institute's mission is twofold: to foster values-based leadership, encouraging individuals to reflect on the ideals and ideas that define a good society, and to provide a neutral and balanced venue for discussing and acting on critical issues. The Aspen Institute does this primarily in four ways: seminars, young-leader fellowships around the globe, policy programs, and public conferences and events. The Institute is based in Washington, DC; Aspen, Colorado; and on the Wye River on Maryland's Eastern Shore. It also has an international network of partners. For more information, visit [www.aspeninstitute.org](http://www.aspeninstitute.org).

## TCC Announces HERO Scholarship for Veteran Students in Need

Reporter: TCC Release

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. (May 26, 2011) –

Tallahassee Community College has established the HERO Scholarship, designed to help students who have overcome heroic odds pay for their college education. The driving force behind this scholarship is TCC professor Dr. Melissa Soldani-Lemon. She has made a significant personal pledge over the next ten years to initiate the launch of the scholarship.

Dr. Soldani-Lemon was inspired by the students in one of her American History classes to create the HERO Scholarship. David Lowe, a triple amputee Vietnam veteran was a student in her class when he tragically broke his femur just weeks before the semester ended and his injury forced him to drop out. He spent 19 months in a Veterans Affairs clinic rehabilitating from his injury. During this time, his classmates assembled care packages for David and other veterans in the clinic to demonstrate their appreciation for the veterans' service.

Finally healthy, David was ready to return to campus this fall and finish his dream of receiving his college degree, but the financial cost of college was a problem. Seeing the need for additional support for our country's veterans and the outpouring of support from David's fellow classmates, Dr. Soldani-Lemon was moved to create the

HERO scholarship, to help students that have overcome incredible odds attend TCC.

"Going to college is an act of optimism, and supporting someone else is a courageous act of optimism," Dr. Soldani-Lemon said. "We cannot do enough for our veterans here at TCC."

David Lowe is on track to return to TCC in the fall of 2011 with the help of the HERO Scholarship. He intends to finish up his final few classes and graduate in the spring of 2012. David plans to walk across the stage—against all odds—and accept his college degree from TCC next spring.

Dr. Soldani-Lemon believes that, "The HERO Scholarship is a measure of this institution. We want to do more than just help our veterans, we want to welcome them and ensure their success." The HERO Scholarship and the newly opened TCC Veterans Center exemplify TCC's commitment to veterans.

Those interested in supporting the scholarship can visit [www.tcc.fl.edu/foundation](http://www.tcc.fl.edu/foundation) and designate contributions to the HERO Scholarship or learn more about other scholarship opportunities. For more information, contact Ranie Thompson at (850) 201-6064 or [thompson@tcc.fl.edu](mailto:thompson@tcc.fl.edu).

Tallahassee Democrat - May 30, 2011

## Campus Notes

TALLAHASSEE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

College competing for Aspen Institute Prize: TCC is preparing its second-round application for the Aspen Institute Prize. The Aspen Institute College Excellence Program has already placed TCC among the nation's 120 best community colleges in a list that was announced April 25. That was the first step for TCC and other colleges competing for \$1 million in prize money. TCC is submitting data by June 17 demonstrating how much students learn, how many students complete their programs on time, and how well students do in the job market after graduation. The group will be winnowed to about 10 finalists in September.

One-night computer classes offered: Individuals in need of short-term, one-night training sessions in multimedia, current technology and upcoming computer applications can enroll in TCC's Tech@Night technology workshops. The summer schedule begins June 14 with the first of two social networking workshops and will continue on Tuesdays through July 19. All workshops take place at the TCC Capitol Center, 300 W. Pensacola St., from 6:15 to 9 p.m. The cost is \$25 for individual workshops and \$150 for the series. For information, visit [workforce.tcc.fl.edu/tech@night](http://workforce.tcc.fl.edu/tech@night).

## Scholarship fund started for veterans at TCC

BY DOUG BLACKBURN  
DEMOCRAT SENIOR WRITER

Melissa Soldani-Lemon is in David Lowe's corner.

As a result, a legion of military veterans may find additional aid at [Tallahassee Community College](#).

Lowe, a Vietnam War-era veteran who has dealt with a host of near-devastating health setbacks, has been taking classes off and on at TCC since 2001.

His goal is to get a degree in computer-aided design so that he can help disabled veterans remodel their homes to be fully accessible.

But Lowe, 55, probably has spent more time during the past decade in the V.A. Medical Center in Lake City than in the classroom.

Soldani-Lemon, a history professor at TCC, wants to be sure money is in place to assist Lowe and other veterans who want to get their degrees. With Lowe in mind, she has created the Hero Scholarship, which she's hoping will receive the necessary funding to be an endowed scholarship.

"I want us to be in a position to help," she said. "If ever anybody needs help the way David needed help, I wanted TCC to be able to step in.

"This isn't just about David," added Soldani-Lemon, who can count five students who are deployed. "It's for who comes after David, because we know there will be more when we least expect them."

Lowe, a Tallahassee native who worked primarily in construction before losing his left arm — he has subsequently lost both feet due to complications with diabetes — has led groups at TCC to help new amputees learn how to live with their condition.

He was thrilled to learn about the Hero Scholarship.

"I think it's going to be something fantastic for disabled veterans coming home," he said. "I'm going to be real tickled if I'm going to be the first one to be a recipient of it."

## Mothers receive sons' Purple Hearts during a ceremony on Memorial Day

BY AMANDA NALLEY  
DEMOCRAT STAFF WRITER

It's been less than a year since Army soldiers Pfc. Brandon King and Pfc. Anthony Simmons died serving their country in Afghanistan. Both soldiers posthumously received Purple Hearts for their sacrifice, and on Memorial Day, plaques given by the Military Order of the Purple Heart were presented to their mothers.

"I feel blessed to be here and honored that they are honoring my son and Brandon King," said Renee Miller, Simmons' mother, at the ceremony in the Capitol courtyard.

A crowd of about 50 attended the event, which included the presentation of two plaques, both bearing a photo of the fallen soldiers.

"We have a motto in the Purple Heart, all gave some, but some gave all," said Washington Sanchez, Senior Vice Commander of the Florida Military Order of the Purple Heart. "These two young adults gave their lives for this country so we could enjoy the freedoms we do."

Sanchez received his Purple Heart after being shot in the leg twice while serving in Vietnam.

"I know how tragic it is for a family," he said, mentioning that soldiers who received a Purple Heart were likely in a conflict where other soldiers possibly died.

"For our family, it's like yesterday. It hasn't gotten easier," said King's mother, Freda King. "I'm very happy he hasn't been forgotten. I really appreciate that."

Simmons, a 25-year-old Tallahassee native and Godby High School graduate, was killed by indirect fire July 8 in Afghanistan.

King, 23, attended [Tallahassee Community College](#) before joining the Army in September 2009. He was killed by a sniper July 14 in Afghanistan.

Both soldiers were in the 101st Airborne Division.

## 18 student-athletes earn accolades at TCC

DEMOCRAT STAFF REPORTS

During the recently completed Spring 2011 semester at [Tallahassee Community College](#), a total of 18 student-athletes earned honors recognition for their work in the classroom.

Matt Duval (baseball) and Kirsten Grant (softball) were named to the President's List with a 4.0 GPA.

The following student-athletes were named to the Dean's List (minimum 3.5 GPA): Brett Andrzejewski, baseball; Carlyle Francis, men's basketball; Kate Goff, softball; Megan Oster, softball; Jared Romero, baseball.

The following student-athletes were named to the Honor's List (minimum 3.0 GPA): Ashley Alexander, women's basketball; Jessica Cavallero, softball; Kory Delange, baseball; Hayden Jordan, baseball; Scott Laughlin, baseball; Alanna Leasau, softball; Ally Ledenham, softball; Rochelle Mills, softball; Chris Norton, baseball; Cameron Tewksbury, baseball; Xia Wilson, softball.

## Tallahassee Democrat - May 31, 2011

### Former Godby High student dies in one-car crash

BY AMANDA NALLEY

DEMOCRAT STAFF WRITER

Friends and former coaches remembered Maron Butler as a leader, the kind of guy you went to for advice.

Butler, 22, was killed in a single-vehicle crash on Springhill Road, southwest of Tallahassee, on Memorial Day.

"He was the strongest person I ever met, both physically and emotionally," said Calvin Dennis, a friend from when Butler attended Florida High.

Butler transferred to Godby High midway through his junior year confirmed Eula Walker, Florida High administrative support assistant. He played football and was on the track team at Godby until he graduated in 2007. He also played football at Florida High. He currently was a student at [Tallahassee Community College](#), where he had enrolled in 2009.

According to the Florida Highway Patrol, Butler was traveling south near W.L. Hudson Circle in a 1996 Honda Accord around 9 p.m. Monday when the vehicle spun and the passenger side hit a tree on the east shoulder. Butler was pronounced dead at the scene.

According to FHP spokesman Lt. Pat Murphy, an autopsy will be conducted today to determine the cause of death. He also said a small amount of marijuana was found in the vehicle.

Former Godby High football coach Shelton Crews remembered Butler as a leader, both on the field and off. He said he was a senior starter during a season when the team went 10-0 in the regular season. He played receiver and defensive back, was a captain and was a "great football player and even a better person," Crews said.

"He will be sorely missed," he said. "He came to practice every day and worked hard."

"He was vibrant and full of energy and he wanted to learn," said Jesse Forbes, Godby High track coach. "He was a well-liked individual and he's going to be missed."

Forbes said Butler had hoped eventually to play college football.

## Program helps former foster child pursue college

Reported by: **Patty Santos**

CONTRIBUTOR: MARJORIE STURGEON

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. (WTXL) -- A 23-year old [Tallahassee community college](#) student is ready to finish her last semester, thanks to a state program.

Danielle Johnson-Small signed up for her last classes at TCC Thursday morning.

Small says the Fostering Achievement Fellowship Program is allowing her to pursue her dreams of becoming a social worker.

The program gives young adults, who were formerly in foster care, financial help to get an education.

She said the mentors and people in the program provided her the emotional support she needs to succeed.

"It's a huge support. It's the difference between success and failure, if we have more kids that go on and go into school, and get their careers started, then that's pretty good," said Small.

The program is sponsored by the Department of Children and Families, TCC, and Big Bend Community Based Care.

**Tallahassee Democrat** - June 5, 2011

## Florida GEAR UP Program offers summer institutes

BY GILTRECIA HEAD

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

The Florida GEAR UP Program will be hosting summer institutes at the following schools: FAMU DRS, James S. Rickards High School and Jefferson Middle High School. In partnership with [Tallahassee Community College](#), GEAR UP will also be hosting the 3rd Annual Summer Institute beginning Monday, June 13 through June 24, 2011 from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. at the [Tallahassee Community College](#). The Summer Institute provides academic enrichment in the areas of Language Arts, Math, Reading and College Success, giving students the interactive experience of college learning. Students must be current or incoming students grades 9-12 at the following schools: FAMU DRS, Rickards High School, NIMS Middle School or Jefferson Middle High School. Registration is free and lunch will be provided. For more information, please contact the GEAR UP office at 850-245-0812.

## Campus Notes

TALLAHASSEE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

FWC recruit class earns 100-percent pass rate

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission's Basic Recruit Class 005 has achieved a 100 percent pass rate on the state Officer Certification Exam, an effort aided by the Florida Public Safety Institute's Pat Thomas Law Enforcement Academy.

PTLEA provided basic law enforcement training to the members of BRC 005, continuing an agreement forged three years ago between the two entities. According to the Florida Department of Law Enforcement, the current statewide pass rate for the SOCE in all academies is 84 percent.

— Send higher education news to Doug Blackburn at [dblackburn@tallahassee.com](mailto:dblackburn@tallahassee.com)

WTXL - June 8, 2011

## FAMU, FSU, Havana Community to Establish the Health and Wellness Center

REPORTER: FAMU RELEASE

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. — June 8, 2011 -

Officials from Florida A&M University (FAMU), alongside Florida State University's College of Medicine, are working with the Gadsden County School Board and the Gadsden County Health Department to develop a 4,000 square foot state-of-the-art Health and Wellness Service and Training Center at Havana Middle School.

To provide quality health care for students, Havana School Board employees and the citizens of Havana are at the forefront of Shirley Aaron's, chair of the steering committee, agenda. Aaron is working tediously to congregate FAMU, FSU, [Tallahassee Community College](#), Gadsden County officials and the community to decrease the number of individuals affected by inadequate healthcare in Havana. A large population of the community is living without insurance or receives Medicaid.

"It has been my dream for a long time to have a health and wellness center that serves the people who are underserved, or served in a limited way in Havana," said Aaron.

According to Aaron, there is one practicing medical provider in Havana, which does not provide medical services for individuals receiving Medicaid.

"We decided to create a center where we have students from pharmacy, allied health, dental hygiene, nursing, physical therapy and medicine working together," said Dr. Maggie Blackburn, a committee member and director of rural health in FSU's Department of Family Medicine and Rural Health.

In December 2010, Yvonne Nelson-Langley, program coordinator for FAMU Community Health Alliance, was brought on board bridging the gap between the committee and the university.

"FAMU President [James H. Ammons] and Provost [Cynthia Hughes Harris] really thought it was important that FAMU be involved in health initiatives that are going on in the community so that we can provide support and technical assistance," said Langley. "Also, we want to know what is happening as we provide different types of training for students as well as activities and community service."

Langley provided an additional fraction that was necessary for the committee to move forward with restructuring the vacant space into a sustainable state-of-the-art facility by bringing officials from the FAMU School of Architecture to the table.

Gretchen Miller, visiting assistant professor in the FAMU School of Architecture, along with a group of students

## FAMU, FSU, Havana Community to Establish the Health and Wellness Center....

*continued*

and professors, met with the steering committee to brainstorm ideas that will maximize the use of space by creating a sustainable facility. The group created three charrettes – architecture models - for the committee.

“We basically made them [the steering committee] better clients by educating them,” said Miller. “A group of students, teachers and advisors took the existing shell of the industrial center with some of the existing walls and created three floor plan scenarios for them to evaluate.”

In addition, the committee received a grant from the Department of Health’s Office of Minority Health to conduct focus groups in Havana to get input from the community on what their needs are. Langley plans to have three graduate students from FAMU’s School of Allied Health, the Department of Social Work and the

Institute of Public Health to participate in conducting these focus groups.

“I’m making sure that FAMU’s interest is involved and that there is a voice advocating for our students; I am that voice,” said Langley. “I’m not only excited, but I feel it is imperative that we are involved.”

The program is currently awaiting feedback on two grants that will provide funding for the projects. The New Access Point grant from the Health Resources and Services Administration includes funding for the project as well as supplemental funds to finance renovations. The committee anticipates the facility will open August 2011; initially providing services for Havana County students and employees before branching out to the local community.

## Obama: Colleges, manufacturers need to team up

By Bart Jansen

DEMOCRAT WASHINGTON BUREAU

WASHINGTON — President Barack Obama's proposal to expand college training would help the country make better products and spur the economy, Florida educators and manufacturers said Wednesday.

"There needs to be a greater focus on manufacturing in the United States," said Bruce Batton, program manager of a training program at [Tallahassee Community College](#). "I firmly believe that manufacturing products is what's going to bring us out of this slump in the economy, and be able to compete and sell in a global market."

He and other Floridians were reacting to a speech Obama delivered at Northern Virginia Community College on Wednesday.

Obama wants to enroll 500,000 students over five years in manufacturing programs that wouldn't necessarily lead to college degrees but would award credentials using standards that businesses would help set.

"If we could match up schools and businesses, we could create pipelines right from the classroom to the office or the factory floor," Obama told students. "This would help workers find better jobs, and it would help companies find the highly educated and highly trained people that they need in order to prosper and to remain competitive."

Al Stimac, president of the Manufacturers Association of Florida, said the goal is to make the U.S. more competitive through better training.

"Florida is a leader in the nation in this whole program," said Stimac, a board member of Workforce Florida and the Florida Chamber of Commerce. "The demand on higher-skill jobs is growing. We have a difficult time finding employees."

Obama said community colleges will get \$2 billion over the next four years through a Labor Department program that develops and upgrades manufacturing programs.

Obama also worked with Congress to double funding for Pell Grants and triple the college tax credit. Both programs are threatened by cutbacks as federal spending is reduced.

"This is really an all-hands-on-deck effort to do that," said Gene Sperling, director of the National Economic Council.

Obama created a program in October called Skills for America's Future, which proposed that community colleges work more closely with manufacturers to develop training programs for workers.

A special challenge for Florida is the state's unemployment rate, which was 10.8 percent in April, compared to 9.1 percent nationwide, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

But the number of Florida manufacturing jobs grew to 307,200 in April, up 1,500 from the previous month and up 5,500 since January, according to the bureau.

Another concern is that 2.7 million manufacturing workers nationwide are at least 55 years old, meaning they will soon retire. Groups like the National Association of Manufactures and the American Association of Community Colleges are collaborating on training programs to ensure that workers have the skills employers want.

"You need a pathway to fill those potential job openings, too," Sperling said.

Stimac, president of Metal Essence Inc. in the Orlando area, has been working with Brevard Community College to develop training programs for workers fabricating metal for electronics, communications and health care for his company.

"People need to know how to read a computer," Stimac said. "What we're finding is that today's educational system is not preparing students for those types of careers."

Mildred Coyne, provost of workforce training and development at Brevard Community College, said she was pleased with Obama's announcement, because the college continually strives to upgrade its training for manufacturing.

Two-year associate degrees include aerospace technology and engineering technology. Certificate programs typically completed in two to three terms cover composite fabrication, alternative energy and welding.

"As the shuttle program comes to an end, BCC has steadfastly worked to retrain and retool aerospace

## Obama: Colleges, manufacturers need to team up...

*continued*

technicians to fill the demands of a changing workplace," Coyne said. "The college looks forward to exploring opportunities to obtain more resources for these programs and initiatives."

Batton said the Advanced Manufacturing Training Center at [Tallahassee Community College](#) began operating in August 2010, offering non-credit courses. Courses will be offered for credit this fall.

Each course might attract a handful of students and can meet in the evening or every day for a week, depending on student needs.

"We are extremely flexible in how we can meet the needs for training individuals," Batton said.

Part of the program deals with computers that drive machines making automobile or aviation parts to standards within three-thousandths of an inch.

Another part of the program trains workers to use hydraulic or pneumatic equipment. Such tools are used in chemical plants to reduce the risk of explosions from electronic equipment.

"We need to train people now to flow into those jobs — those highly skilled manufacturing and industrial jobs — as they become available, so there's no lag time," Batton said.

**Tallahassee Democrat** - June 13, 2011

## Campus Notes

TALLAHASSEE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

STEM program seeks scholarship applications

TCC's STEM program, an initiative within the college's Division of Science and Mathematics, currently is accepting scholarship applications for the 2011-12 academic year. The STEM program is designed to increase Florida's science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) work force by assisting academically talented but financially needy students in earning their college degree in an associated field. A \$2,500 annual scholarship is available to earn a two-year college degree in the STEM areas. Students interested in the STEM program can apply for scholarships online at [www.tcc.fl.edu/scholarships](http://www.tcc.fl.edu/scholarships).

## TCC Named Top 10 of A.A. Producers

**Reporter: Jill Chandler**

EMAIL ADDRESS: JILL.CHANDLER@WCTV.TV

Tallahassee, Florida --

TCC is named a top 10 school in two-year degree producers.

Community College Week has just released its report.

The report places TCC at number nine in the nation with more than 2,800 associate degrees in the 2009- 2010 school year.

TCC Chief of Staff, Scott Balog, said, "It confirms that students are choosing TCC, and they're choosing us because of the access to high quality programs, affordability, out of class support."

TCC has already seen a 9 % increase in student enrollment, and hopes this ranking will increase the numbers even more.

For a full breakdown of rankings see below:

(TCC Press Release)

Community College Week has released its annual Top 100 analysis, a report examining degrees and certificates awarded at community colleges across the nation. The report, based on the 2009-10 academic year, again shows that [Tallahassee Community College](#) remains one of America's top associate degree producers.

In the 2011 report, released on Monday, TCC earned a national ranking in six different categories, including No. 9 among two-year institutions in the total number of associate degrees awarded during the 2009-10 academic year. According to the report, TCC awarded 2,872 associate degrees during the 2009-10 academic year, up 22.2 percent from 2008-09 (2,351) when it was 15th in Community College Week's rankings.

TCC earned a No. 4 ranking among two-year institutions in the number of associate degrees awarded to African-Americans. According to preliminary reports, the College

awarded 796 associate degrees in this category during 2009-10, a 63.4 percent increase from 2008-09.

For the second consecutive year, TCC ranked No. 2 nationally among two-year institutions in the Liberal Arts and Sciences, General Students and Humanities category. Preliminary reports indicate the College awarded 2,637 associate degrees in this category during the 2009-10 academic year, a 21.2 percent increase from 2008-09.

TCC garnered a No. 9 ranking among two-year institutions in the number of associate degrees awarded to non-minorities. Preliminary reports show TCC awarded 1,727 associate degrees in this category during 2009-10, a 12.9 percent increase from 2008-09.

TCC also ranked 15th in the number of associate degrees awarded in the Total Minority category, making a huge jump from the 2010 report in which it was ranked 36th. Preliminary reports show that TCC awarded 1,053 associate degrees in this category in 2009-10, up 49.2 percent from 2008-09.

Additionally, TCC broke new ground in the 2011 rankings, earning a No. 26 ranking in the Family & Consumer Sciences/Human Sciences category. Preliminary reports show that TCC awarded 41 associate degrees in this category in 2009-10.

The data are collected by the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) through the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data Set (IPEDS) completions survey. The data are also considered preliminary because every eligible institution is not yet included.

The analysis is limited to institutions that are eligible for participation in Title IV programs – which encompass all federal financial aid – located in the 50 states and the District of Columbia. To be Title IV eligible, an institution must be accredited by either a regional or specialized accreditation agency that is recognized by the U.S. Department of Education.

## TCC, ERAU Hosting Free Aviation Camp

Reporter: TCC Release

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. (June 15, 2011) -

[Tallahassee Community College](#), in partnership with the Tallahassee campus of Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, is hosting a free aviation camp Monday-Friday, June 20-24.

The camp will run from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. daily and will take place at TCC's Advanced Manufacturing Training Center (AMTC). The AMTC is located on the southwest corner of TCC's main campus at 3958 West Pensacola Street.

Rising eighth graders through high school seniors are eligible to participate. Camp enrollment is limited to six students.

The camp will include classroom presentations on aviation procedures, use of flight simulators, training on basic navigation skills, hands-on projects and an introductory flight.

Students are asked to arrive no earlier than 8:45 a.m. and must be picked up no later than 3:45 p.m. daily. Students are responsible for transportation to and from the AMTC, as well as lunch.

For more information on the camp, please contact the AMTC at (850) 201-9720.

## Tallahassee Democrat - June 5, 2011

### FAMU teams up with FSU and Havana Community to establish The Health and Wellness Service and Training Center

By Pamela Tolson and Stephanie Lambert

TALLAHASSEE, FL — Officials from Florida A&M University (FAMU), alongside Florida State University's College of Medicine, are working with the Gadsden County School Board and the Gadsden County Health Department to develop a 4,000 square foot state-of-the-art Health and Wellness Service and Training Center at Havana Middle School.

To provide quality health care for students, Havana School Board employees and the citizens of Havana are at the forefront of Shirley Aaron's, chair of the steering committee, agenda. Aaron is working tediously to congregate FAMU, FSU, [Tallahassee Community College](#), Gadsden County officials and the community to decrease the number of individuals affected by inadequate healthcare in Havana. A large population of the community is living without insurance or receives Medicaid.

"It has been my dream for a long time to have a health

and wellness center that serves the people who are underserved, or served in a limited way in Havana," said Aaron.

According to Aaron, there is one practicing medical provider in Havana, which does not provide medical services for individuals receiving Medicaid.

"We decided to create a center where we have students from pharmacy, allied health, dental hygiene, nursing, physical therapy and medicine working together," said Dr. Maggie Blackburn, a committee member and director of rural health in FSU's Department of Family Medicine and Rural Health.

In December 2010, Yvonne Nelson-Langley, program coordinator for FAMU Community Health Alliance, was brought on board bridging the gap between the committee and the university.

## FAMU teams up with FSU and Havana Community to establish The Health and Wellness Service and Training Center...

*continued*

"FAMU President [James H. Ammons] and Provost [Cynthia Hughes Harris] really thought it was important that FAMU be involved in health initiatives that are going on in the community so that we can provide support and technical assistance," said Langley. "Also, we want to know what is happening as we provide different types of training for students as well as activities and community service."

Langley provided an additional fraction that was necessary for the committee to move forward with restructuring the vacant space into a sustainable state-of-the-art facility by bringing officials from the FAMU School of Architecture to the table.

Gretchen Miller, visiting assistant professor in the FAMU School of Architecture, along with a group of students and professors, met with the steering committee to brainstorm ideas that will maximize the use of space by creating a sustainable facility. The group created three charrettes – architecture models - for the committee.

"We basically made them [the steering committee] better clients by educating them," said Miller. "A group of students, teachers and advisors took the existing shell of

the industrial center with some of the existing walls and created three floor plan scenarios for them to evaluate."

In addition, the committee received a grant from the Department of Health's Office of Minority Health to conduct focus groups in Havana to get input from the community on what their needs are. Langley plans to have three graduate students from FAMU's School of Allied Health, the Department of Social Work and the Institute of Public Health to participate in conducting these focus groups.

"I'm making sure that FAMU's interest is involved and that there is a voice advocating for our students; I am that voice," said Langley. "I'm not only excited, but I feel it is imperative that we are involved."

The program is currently awaiting feedback on two grants that will provide funding for the projects. The New Access Point grant from the Health Resources and Services Administration includes funding for the project as well as supplemental funds to finance renovations. The committee anticipates the facility will open August 2011; initially providing services for Havana students and employees before branching out to the local community.

## Our Opinion: Wanted -- jobs

### SEVERAL EFFORTS AIM TO HELP THE UNEMPLOYED

Florida is in a kind of hold-your-breath position when it comes to job creation and its wretched counterpart, unemployment.

Gov. Rick Scott is prepared to sign legislation cutting unemployment benefits to as few as 12 weeks — but that's only when and if the state unemployment rate falls to 5 percent or lower.

Under HB 7005, which reached Mr. Scott's desk on Monday, the unemployment rate will have to be 10.5 percent or higher for claimants to receive a full 23 weeks of benefits. Currently, unemployment stands at 10.8 percent in Florida. No one who is currently on unemployment benefits will be affected by the new law.

Hitting that 5-percent jobless rate seems elusive now, but Mr. Scott on Tuesday signed legislation (SB 2156) creating a new Department of Economic Opportunity. The new state agency is being created as part of the goal to — yes, streamline government.

It will contain the Agency for Workforce Innovation, shift the Office of Tourism Trade and Economic Development out of the governor's office, and incorporate pieces of the now-dismantled Department of Community Affairs. Beginning Oct. 1, the new agency, headed by Gray Swoope, will essentially put all hands on deck to react quickly to business development propositions and requests for help and incentives.

The governor also won permission under the legislation to hand out incentives of up to \$2 million without legislative approval.

Another piece of this job-creation legislation brings Enterprise Florida, a public-private economic development partnership, under closer control, with its head appointed by the governor. And under its wing will come the Black Business Investment Board and Florida Sports Foundation.

Perhaps all these efforts will work. In time.

In the meantime, the unemployed and soon-to-be unemployed state workers — who are literally part of the streamlining — will be struggling to regroup.

Coming to their aid will be [Tallahassee Community College](#), which is coordinating with the Florida Department of Management Services, the 2-1-1 network and Workforce Plus to offer a network aimed at assisting laid-off workers.

"We do a lot of training for state agencies," TCC President James Murdaugh said Tuesday, "but we also see the reality and also the fear of individuals who will be losing their jobs with the state. They're scared, worried about mortgages and health insurance and the need to get training or sharpen their skills."

What is planned is a collection of resources that these groups and agencies and TCC will coordinate on a website. It will be available to the unemployed for information and assistance in lining up short-term training, long-term career-change plans, and information about grants, loans, scholarships and other financial planning.

Dr. Murdaugh said the services will extend to about eight counties in this region, where as many as 1,000 people may be affected by the cuts to state government.

"We're here to help soften the blow," he said.

Here in the capital region, until the governor's and other job-creation efforts kick in, that blow is real. This effort to get workers through the transition is important and sincerely needed.

## TCC Foundation Announces Health Campaign's Lead Gift Committee

### Reporter: TCC Release

Despite the current state of the local economy, [Tallahassee Community College](#) is embarking on an ambitious fundraising campaign but one that will serve thousands of individuals across the Big Bend. TCC's Healthcare Provision and Excellence Campaign will enable the College to continue serving Tallahassee and surrounding communities by educating and equipping future outstanding healthcare professionals.

The campaign goal is \$5 million, but as Robin Johnston, the College's vice president for institutional advancement, explains, that number pales in comparison to the value of the services that will be provided by students who will be educated inside TCC's new 88,000 square foot Ghazvini Center for Healthcare Education, scheduled for a September opening.

"Each day, 10,000 individuals nationwide are becoming eligible for Medicare," explained Johnston, "In Tallahassee, chances are those individuals will be cared for by a healthcare worker who trained at a community college, most likely [Tallahassee Community College](#)."

Additionally, as the economy improves and an aging workforce begins to retire, a shortage in the number of healthcare workers is expected to again be on the rise. It is this gap that TCC aims to fill.

To ensure the College reaches its campaign goal, the TCC Foundation has assembled a Lead Gift Committee, comprised of notable healthcare professionals and business leaders throughout Tallahassee.

The 11-member committee includes TCC President Jim Murdaugh and John Hogan, President and CEO of Capital Health Plan, who was previously named the campaign's honorary chair.

Other Lead Gift Committee members include (in alphabetical order):

- David Bellamy, MD - orthopedic surgeon, Tallahassee Orthopedic Clinic
- Ken Boutwell, PhD – Co-Founder and President, MGT of America, Inc.
- Walter E. Colón, II, DMD, MS - President and Owner, Periodontal Associates of North Florida

- Steve Evans – senior advisor and past chairman, Florida TaxWatch

- Paula Fortunas – President and CEO, Tallahassee Memorial HealthCare Foundation

- Almena Pettit, MBA – community volunteer, TCC Foundation Board of Directors

- Winnie Schmeling, PhD, RN, FAAN – consultant, TCC Foundation Board of Directors

- John B. Thomas – President, Brandt Information Services, TCC Foundation Board of Directors

- Bud Wethington – President and CEO, Capital Regional Medical Center

Doug Bell, a lawyer with Pennington, Moore, Wilkinson, Bell & Dunbar, and a member of the TCC Foundation's Board of Directors is the campaign's general chair.

The Lead Gift Committee is charged with identifying and evaluating prospective donors capable of providing lead gifts for the campaign. Committee members will also assist in soliciting lead gifts and enlisting additional campaign leaders, as requested by the committee chair.

"We're very grateful to everyone on this all-star team of healthcare professionals, local business icons and community leaders for their help in spreading the word about TCC's efforts," Johnston added. "Their involvement reflects the fact that maintaining a quality health care workforce is a critical issue and underscores the importance of TCC's initiative to the entire community."

The Healthcare Provision and Excellence Campaign supports TCC's expanding healthcare programs by seeking investments for facilities, state-of-the-art technology, student support services, scholarships and more. The College plans to increase healthcare programs enrollment by close to 100 percent over the next five years.

In March of 2009, TCC broke ground on the healthcare Center. The Center will be located in the heart of the Tallahassee medical corridor, thanks to a 14.5-acre land grant from Tallahassee Memorial HealthCare.

## TCC Offers Professional Development Workshops to LCS Employees

Reporter: TCC Release

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. (June 16, 2011) -

Tallahassee Community College's Center for Workforce Development is partnering with Leon County Schools (LCS) to offer professional and personal development workshops for school system personnel. The 2011 Summer Institute seeks to give LCS employees an opportunity to enhance their skills and learn new topics. The concept of the Institute was inspired by employees' continuous desire for training and professional development opportunities. The courses were selected based on employees' needs and interests.

The 3-hour workshops began on Monday, June 13 and run through Thursday, June 23. Professional development topics include Stress Management, Business Writing, Presentation Skills and Microsoft Office applications. Personal development topics include DIY Basic Home Air Conditioning Repair, DIY Basic Home Plumbing Repair, Birds of the Region and Ecosystems.

"We want the staff of our Leon County Schools to be well trained and well-rounded," said Jo Marie Olk, director of Professional Learning for LCS. "Our employees are eager to grow their skills and this partnership with TCC is an excellent avenue for professional development."

Seats are limited in each workshop. LCS personnel wanting to attend should contact their supervisors to learn more. Businesses or organizations interested in offering customized professional development workshops to their employees should call the Center for Workforce Development at (850) 201-8760 or e-mail [workforce@tcc.fl.edu](mailto:workforce@tcc.fl.edu).

SPONSORED REPORT

TALLAHASSEE/LEON COUNTY

**QUANTUM LEAP**

Research and business development support are dramatically advancing Tallahassee's private sector.

Tallahassee's competitive assets include its highly educated workforce, engaged high-tech industry, transportation and communications infrastructure and world-class research institutions.

These strengths are resulting in the commercialization of research via new business formations, local company expansions, as well as the attraction of new employers (see sidebar).

"Our region is poised to take a quantum leap in the creation of private sector jobs," said Beth Kirkland, executive director of the Economic Development Council of Tallahassee/Leon County (EDC). "We have a pipeline of projects that are creating private sector jobs, many of them based on the research and development taking place in our backyard."

**COMMERCIALIZATION OF RESEARCH**

Tallahassee has made great strides in new business development by guiding high-tech companies and researchers beyond the vulnerable stages of business development and into the commercial marketplace.

The region is also providing start-up companies with assessment, location and placement within appropriate incubator facilities where businesses are receiving much-needed tools, training and infrastructure support. As a result, companies are graduating from area incubators into their own buildings where they are providing a capital investment to the community and laying the foundation for job creation.



**RECENT STARTUPS AND EXPANSIONS**

**Bing Energy**, in collaboration with Florida State University's Dr. Jim P. Zheng, is planning to turn revolutionary nanotechnology pioneered at FSU into a better, faster, more economical and commercially viable fuel cell. The move is expected to create at least 244 jobs paying an average wage of \$41,655 in Tallahassee.



**PortStar**, the nation's only comprehensive seaport security curriculum with flexible delivery options and online training management was developed by FSU researchers in close collaboration with the U.S. Coast Guard and FEMA. The product is available commercially for employees and first responders at the nation's 360 seaports and 3,200 marine facilities.

**High Performance Magnetics** is the vision of Tom Painter, an engineer from the National High Magnetic Field Laboratory, a National Science Foundation funded facility led by FSU and headquartered in Tallahassee. The company is a manufacturing and management firm that specializes in providing high-quality superconducting magnet products. The Tallahassee-based small business landed a large federal contract in March 2010 to be the US national supplier of specialized high-field magnet cable to ITER, an international fusion energy experiment being conducted by seven of the world's largest countries to demonstrate the scientific and technical feasibility of magnetically-confined fusion energy as an electrically generating power source.

A local business is collaborating with FSU researcher Ian Winger and has licensed **Solar Tube Technology** developed at FSU to advance the effectiveness of solar power generation. The decision made by the business to remain in Tallahassee is tied to the innovative use of New Market Tax Credits and a public/private partnership with the City of Tallahassee.

FSU has created the **FSURF Entrepreneurial Building** in the Commonwealth Industrial Park to help move faculty-created spinouts toward the marketplace. FSU has also created the **College of Business Student Incubator** in the Florida State College of Business that welcomes students in any area of study at FSU to locate their ventures rent-free.

Through Tallahassee Community College's **Advanced Manufacturing Training Center**, manufacturing companies are receiving training to



compete in the new global landscape. The training center provides the technology and tools needed to compete in the "lean manufacturing" world. The center tailors services to meet the needs of the employer and also provides in-

cubator space for manufacturing-based companies.

**Verdicorp**, a Tallahassee-based company that develops next-generation, clean technologies, has graduated from its incubator space at the Advanced Manufacturing Training Center, to its own building. Verdicorp is a spin-off created by Ron Conry, the inventor of the technology used by Danfoss Turbocor, a business that was recruited to the area in 2006. Verdicorp focuses on very efficient Heating, Ventilation and Air-Conditioning (HVAC), energy generation, recovery and storage systems, and water desalination, treatment and pumping.

**"Our region is poised to take a quantum leap in the creation of private sector jobs"**

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Tallahassee Democrat - June 4 & 5, 2011

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