

TALLAHASSEE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

In the News



August 16, 2014 - September 12, 2014

TALLAHASSEE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

In the News



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August 16, 2014 - September 12, 2014

TALLAHASSEE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

In the News



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- August 24, 2014 - WCTV - Ryan Deckert signs with Florida A&M University baseball
- August 25, 2014 - WCTV - First day of classes at TCC
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- September 12, 2014 - WTXL - College and Career Fair preview with Lourena Maxwell

Education » TCC

Tallahassee Community College

Tallahassee Community College is one of the nation's top community colleges and offers the excitement and intellectual stimulation of a mid-size college — with the individual attention that comes from small classes and caring faculty. Every semester, about 14,000 students choose TCC for their college experience. Many are preparing for transfer to a university, while others are developing the skills they need to move directly into the workforce.

LOCATIONS

Main Campus: 444 Appleyard Drive, 850-201-6200
 TCC Capitol Center: 300 West Pensacola St., 850-201-7662
 Quincy House: 216 North Adams, Quincy, 850-558-3620
 TCC Wakulla Center: 2932 Crawfordville Highway, Crawfordville, 850-922-6290
 Florida Public Safety Institute: 75 College Drive, Havana, 850-201-7000
 Center for Workforce Development: 444 Appleyard Drive, 850-201-8760
 Ghazvini Center for Healthcare Education: 1528 Surgeons Drive, 850-558-4500

ENROLLMENT

TCC enrolls about 14,000 students each semester.

FEES

In-state tuition and fees per hour: \$98.83



Student Steve Murray poses with TCC mascot. TCC attracts new and returning students. GLENN BEIL/DEMOCRAT FILES

Out-of-state tuition and fees per hour: \$375.99

KEY DATES

Aug. 25, 2014: Fall main session begins
 Jan. 7, 2015: Spring main session begins

ACADEMIC OVERVIEW

Programs offered: TCC offers more than 90 academic and career programs and 700 courses.

The Associate in Arts (A.A.) degree is designed for students planning to transfer to a four-year college or uni-

versity. Nearly 75 percent of TCC's A.A. graduates transfer into the State University System within one year, and TCC is the number one transfer school to Florida State University.

The college offers two-year degrees in nursing, dental hygiene and other healthcare fields; computer technology; health information management; environmental technology; graphic design; business/accounting/office; paralegal; criminal justice; engineering technology; building construction; drafting/design; child development; and more.

TCC offers certificates in many in-demand fields, including healthcare. TCC's Florida Public Safety Institute in Gadsden County offers programs such as law enforcement, corrections, correctional probation and firefighting.

FINANCIAL AID AND SCHOLARSHIPS

The college provides about \$20 million in scholarships and grants every year.

ATHLETICS

The TCC Eagles compete in baseball, softball, and men's and women's basketball. In 2014, the softball team won the Panhandle Conference and FCSAA Championships and advanced to the National Junior College Athletic Association Division I Softball National Championship while the baseball team qualified for the FCSAA State Tournament.

KEY CONTACTS

Admissions and Enrollment Services: 201-8555
 Student Success and Retention: 201-8440
 Disability Support Services: 201-8430
 Academic Support: 201-8505
 Financial Aid and Scholarships: 201-8399
 Veterans Affairs: 201-8406
 Online: www.GoToTCC.com

did you know?

The TV quiz show "Jeopardy" makes Tallahassee and Florida State University references frequently — some of which baffle the contestants. In November 2013, the category was birth-

stones and the \$1,000 clue showed photos of a red stone and the FSU sports logo. None of the contestants could correctly identify the birthstone, "garnet," which is one of FSU's colors.

Chamber Conference sets the tone

E. EDWARD MURRAY
TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT

The Greater Tallahassee Chamber of Commerce held its 2014 annual Chamber Community Conference last weekend. It was my honor to serve as Chamber chair at this year's conference, and I loved seeing the interest, passion and dedication our local businesses have for our community.

The conference featured more than 500 business leaders, an event record, including more than 100 first-time attendees, all focused on improving our community's economic vitality and our quality of life as well as to learn about the big changes taking place locally and to network and grow their businesses. From nonprofits and education leaders to CEOs and elected officials, no other event brings together this many people from all sectors of our community.

The lineup of speakers and breakout sessions this year were the best ever.

We heard from new Florida A&M President Elmira Mangum and Interim FSU President Garnett Stokes on the big projects taking place at both schools and what to expect going forward. Our keynote speaker was Michael Rogers, a practical futurist who highlighted the potentially challenging yet exciting changes business owners can expect in the way we communicate and work as well as the differences with the new generation of our workforce.

Our breakout sessions featured a number of topics important to business owners, including marketing, being a better leader, and the dynamics of a family-run business. Other breakout sessions were devoted to the importance of nonprofits to a successful community and a look at the big business of college sports, featuring [the athletic directors of FSU, FAMU and Tallahassee Community College](#).

We also had a number of sessions and topics devoted to economic development, such as the importance of FSU's research and commercialization initiatives, a discussion on how public/private collaborations led to the revitalization of downtown Tallahassee, as well as a look at the launch of the Domi Station business incubator and how it will help shape the future of entrepreneurship in our community. Speaking of economic development,

we also got a comprehensive update from Economic Development Council Chair [Jim Murdaugh](#) on the region's efforts to retain and attract businesses as well as the continued growth of our local entrepreneurial ecosystem.

However, as important and diverse as all of these topics were, they may not have the desired impact locally if we don't have the infrastructure and resources necessary to support existing and future businesses. We can ensure that this vital support is provided with the passage of the upcoming sales tax extension in November.

The importance of this extension was the overall theme of the weekend. If you attended this year's conference, you spoke to and heard from hundreds of business, community and education leaders who all support the continuation of this important extension and who recognize that it can help improve our quality of life, ensure that Tallahassee remains competitive on a global scale, and assist local businesses so that they not only survive but thrive. With more than \$900 million in infrastructure improvements and the potential for more than 8,000 jobs, it's the single biggest positive community enhancement and economic development decision we'll make in our lifetime.

I want to specifically thank Chamber President/CEO Sue Dick and her incredibly talented staff for coordinating a tremendous event, as well as First Commerce Credit Union for its financial commitment as presenting sponsor for the conference for the second straight year.

There is so much momentum and so many positive developments taking place in our community, and this year's conference allowed us to collectively focus this energy on our future as we all work together to make our Capital City a more sustainable business environment. I want to say thank you to those who attended, as it demonstrated your commitment to growing and strengthening Tallahassee's business community and your Chamber's role in making this happen.

If you weren't able to attend, make sure to reserve space on your calendar now for next year's conference, taking place in August. Ask anyone who went this year — you don't want to miss it.

Panelists explore economic impact of area's nonprofits

ALYCE LEE STANSBURY

TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT

I had the pleasure of attending the annual Chamber Community Conference last weekend in Amelia Island. I served on a panel discussing the economic impact of nonprofits.

To my knowledge, this is the first time a panel session was held at the conference to discuss the economic impact of the nonprofit sector. I am grateful to the Greater Tallahassee Chamber of Commerce for recognizing why this conversation is important.

The panel was led by the amazing Marjorie Turnbull, who served as moderator and set the stage for the discussion. She reminded us that nonprofits not only turn our beliefs into action, but have a significant impact on the economic vitality of our community.

I spoke next and explained why the name of our session was "Nonprofits Mean Business". One in 10 U.S. employees works for a nonprofit. The nonprofit sector is the third largest in the U.S. and represents 5.5 percent of gross domestic product. In Tallahassee, there are more than 800 charitable nonprofits, which does not include the trade associations or faith-based organizations.

To demonstrate the impact of the nonprofit sector on the quality of life, I asked attendees to stand if they had visited a local museum, adopted a dog at the Humane Society, had a loved one or co-worker receive hospice care, had a family member or employee with a disability, if they play an instrument, had attended a local play or concert; or recruited a friend, family member or colleague to move to Tallahassee. In very short order, the entire room was standing and smiling.

Panelist Bart Wells spoke about the impact of nonprofits on his workforce. He told the story of downsizing his business after the recession and the impact this had on the people he let go, many of whom relied on support and services provided by local nonprofit organizations.

Bart shared that nonprofits are some of his valued clients. He continued by discussing the value of the cultural community and the \$74 million of documented spending they produced in local hotels, restaurants, salaries and ticket sales. To Sperry & Associates, nonprofits mean business.

Heather Mitchell of United Way of the Big Bend discussed cost savings and cost avoidance made possible by nonprofits. According to the March of Dimes, a full-term baby costs \$3,325 versus \$32,325 for a pre-term baby. The Florida Department of Children & Families confirms that investing \$1,625 in one at-risk child saves the community \$60,000 in child abuse, emergency and foster care costs.

According to Florida TaxWatch, when the Boys & Girls Clubs serve 366 youth, that saves the community over \$16 million. For all these reasons, nonprofits mean business.

Kim Moore from Tallahassee Community College

wrapped up the discussion with the economic impact of the sector in terms of jobs created and retained, payrolls, leases, and the purchase of goods and services.

Kim shared information provided by the Council on Culture & Arts. Twenty-five cultural organizations generated 6,000 hotel/bed nights and nearly 620,000 people participated or attended shows and events. Nonprofits applying for funding through the Community Human Services Partnership have a collective operating budget of \$115 million, which greatly exceeds the \$4.5 million distributed through this process.

These agencies purchase more than \$3.7 million in professional services; pay \$7 million in occupancy, leases and related costs; and purchase \$1.2 million in insurance coverage.

Following the remarks, Marjorie opened the floor for questions and comments. It was a great discussion and generated lots of practical ideas to mutually benefit the business and nonprofit sectors. Thank you to the many nonprofit leaders who attended the session and representatives from the business community, including **Karen Moore of Moore Communications Group**, Dr. Russ Rainey, Susan Turner of Prime Meridian Bank, Craig Goodson of Inspired Technologies, Tracey Shrine of Full Press Apparel, Allison Harrell and Jeff Barbacci of Thomas Howell Ferguson, Brooke Hallock of Capital City Bank, Virginia Glass of Coldwell Banker Hartung & Noblin Realtors, Mike Schmidt of The Egg, Martha Browning of Campus USA Credit Union, Mayor John Marks and many others.

Nonprofit tip of the week

TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT

Run a nonprofit? Here's a tip:

In an ideal world, your volunteers will commit to working a set number of hours per week or month, and they will show up on time every day ready to go. However, volunteers are real people with lives and other commitments that may not coincide with your nonprofit's plans.

Any organization that works with volunteers needs to be aware of their limitations and strengths and be flexible with scheduling. For example, your best source of daytime volunteers may be freelancers who have spare time, though not always at the same time each week. Other volunteers may not be able to come to the office to stuff envelopes or have time to direct traffic at the Saturday morning fun run, but perhaps they *can* help manage your online presence remotely.

Creating alternatives and contingency plans is a good idea, especially with large campaigns or events. If you know you will need a certain number of people helping out on a certain day, make sure you have extra workers on call in case someone doesn't show up. If you are advised of a scheduling conflict for one of your volunteers, start trying to find a backup as soon as possible. Failing to plan means you are planning to fail.

The Institute for Nonprofit Innovation and Excellence (INIE) is a management support organization that enhances the capacity and leadership of nonprofits through advocacy, education and engagement. To find out more, visit www.theinstitutefor nonprofits.org.

Messersmith new board chair at TCC

TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT

Frank Messersmith, the longest serving member of the Tallahassee Community College District Board of Trustees, was elected chairman of the board at the college's annual reorganization meeting Monday. Messersmith, appointed to TCC's board in 1999 by Gov. Jeb Bush, has been reappointed by governors Crist and Scott. He represents one of two Wakulla County seats on the board.

He succeeds Eugene Lamb, a Gadsden County representative, who served as chairman from August 2013 through Monday. Donna Callaway, a former principal of Raa Middle School and a Leon County representative, was elected vice-chair of TCC's board.

Teaching creates a China connection for Realtor Bob Teel

DAVE HODGES

TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT

As second careers go, the one Realtor Bob Teel has had overseas has been rewarding on several levels.

A teacher in the international studies programs of both Tallahassee Community College and Florida State University, he has made multiple extended trips to Tianjin, China. There, he helps students understand the basics of business, and he's seen first hand a real estate market vastly different from the one here.

Tianjin is a city of 14 million people and is about 60 miles from Beijing, which has a population of 20 million. A nation of 1.3 billion, China is understandably aggressive in its development efforts.

In fact, when he comes home to Tallahassee and friends want to discuss his travels, he says it's difficult to convey the differences apparent in China. "You can't tell somebody how dynamic it is over there," said Teel, who grew up in Crestview and is the owner and broker of Community Realty of Tallahassee.

"They build so fast, and they have got so much money," Teel said of the rapid development. "They are trying to build as many things as they can with cheap money."

In some communities the addition of new housing and infrastructure occurs well before the residents actually materialize. He described a common scene. "Imagine thirty 32-story buildings being built as one package. Because people are going to live there sooner or later, they are building apartments, condominiums, whatever you want to call them.

"You go two miles down the road and there's another 30 being built, a six-lane highway going up to it, and nobody living there," Teel said of housing's pace.

Commercial is much the same way. Five-star hotels being done, all completely furnished and waiting for the arrival of tourists. "They are anticipating and they have the money to do it," he added. The construction also puts people to work, which is critical in such a populous nation.

Real estate activity is centered around partnerships between the government and the developers. Also, some 90 percent of the banks are joint ventures with the

Chinese government, which sometimes has a controlling interest in the institutions and sometimes does not.

There is a drawback to the rapid development. In the case of a 16-story dormitory where he stays, the housing facility was constructed in nine months. However, the showers all leak and a sizable crack developed in one wall. There is no building inspection that he's seen as there is here.

Critics say the development is so rapid that there's no concern for safety or for longevity of what's built. The government wants such dynamic things as high-speed trains, new bridges and multi-lane highways. Yet, the crash of a new train killed 30 people and some new buildings have collapsed. Faulty drainage systems have caused properties to flood.

"They are making changes. You can see that they are trying to do the right thing, especially the new president (Xi Jinping)." He is trying to change the attitude of the leadership and combat corruption, says Teel, a retired Air Force colonel who has a background in management and computer systems design engineering as well as real estate.

Teel was recently honored with a full professorship at Tianjin Foreign Studies University's School of Business, where he teaches for both TCC and FSU international studies programs.

"I never thought I wanted to teach, but I started teaching 30 years ago as an adjunct professor at Florida State just as entertainment. I own a real estate company so I just enjoy being out there," he said.

James Pitts, director of FSU's International Programs and a longtime faculty member in the College of Business, was the first to approach Teel about working overseas. "I knew him as a former student. I had him in class. I think he was in a graduate program at the time. I was teaching in the College of Business," Pitts said.

About four years ago an opening on the international team prompted Pitts to approach Teel. "I saw Bob and asked him, 'Would you have the availability to go and teach with us in China?' He thought for a moment and said yes."

Teaching creates a China connection for Realtor Bob Teel....

continued

FSU maintains four international campuses in London, Florence, Italy; Valencia, Spain; and the Republic of Panama, as well as more than 20 summer study locations, among them Tianjin.

"I think it's extremely important that U.S. students gain an understanding of other cultures, of other ways of doing business, and what's going on in other parts of the world," Pitts said.

During the summer, Teel is in Tianjin for six or seven weeks at a time. He teaches anywhere from 20 to 40 American students from FSU who take his business courses.

TCC's Lee Kitchen is the lead professor in the college's China program, which is offered to Chinese students who have mastered English and who are business majors. The class is composed of up to 12 TCC students from Tallahassee and 87 Chinese students eager to learn about entrepreneurship and the business experiences Teel has had.

The Chinese government, in fact, encourages students to consider a business career path. "They are pushing everybody to go into entrepreneurship because only about 35 to 45 percent of the college students have a job when they get out," Teel noted.

As many as 350 students at Tianjin University apply for the TCC course. The college also does an online course that is an introduction to business, which the students already have had in Chinese. "But they have never had anybody really teach them from an English standpoint – what the real world is, international business," Teel said. "They get it out of a textbook."

Teel and Kitchen have also been active in the Sister City program, where the city of Tallahassee has established a formal relationship with Rugao, a port city of 1.5 million people on China's Yangtze River about 75 miles from Shanghai. They have taken students to Rugao to visit and learn about business development there.

Residential neighborhoods Teel has toured aren't that different from those here. He says there is a mix of single-family homes, condominiums, townhouses. "They are all brand new and all very expensive," he added.

Real estate agents typically work for a developer. If a consumer is looking for some place to rent, the agents are the ones who find the property. For more people, a home purchase is beyond their financial means. The Chinese people, however, are tremendous savers, leading to a savings rate that topped 50 percent in the past couple of years while the worldwide average is 20 percent, according to the International Monetary Fund. Part of that is driven by uncertainty about the nation's future and their economic prospects, analysts say.

Another reason – financing a home purchase is not as easy as it is in the U.S. Residents Teel has spoken with in China have told him they will have to put up cash equal to at least 50 percent of the price of any property they select.

"Real estate is just booming like crazy. They are overbuilding and they are projecting out what they are going to need," Teel said. "They are building with inexpensive interest rates, but they are making it still very hard for people to buy."

Most buyers are 35 to 40 years old before they actually buy a place because they want to pay cash.

Different market forces are at work as well. The government's goal of urbanization is to steer people into cities, where it's easier to provide services and take care of the needs of the population. The trade-off versus agrarian living is there are fewer job possibilities and the individual makes less income, but government services are more readily available.

Pitts said the national bird is the crane – the construction crane. "It's quite an interesting observation to see the transformation from an agricultural society to an industrial society in many of those communities," he said.

Free hunter safety Internet-completion courses offered in Gadsden, Liberty counties (FL)

THE OUTDOOR WIRE

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) is offering free hunter safety Internet-completion courses in Gadsden and Liberty counties in August.

The Gadsden County course takes place in Classroom 120 at the Florida Public Safety Institute, 85 Academy Drive, Havana. The Institute is west of the city of Midway on U.S. 90.

The Liberty County course takes place at the Woodmen of the World Camp, 22459 N.E. Woodmen of the World Road, Hosford.

Instruction for both courses is from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. EDT, Aug. 30.

Students must complete the Internet course before coming to class and bring a copy of the final report from the online portion of the course. The final report form does not have to be notarized.

An adult must accompany children under the age of 16 at all times. Students should bring a pencil and paper with them to take notes.

Anyone born on or after June 1, 1975, must pass an approved hunter safety course and have a hunting license to hunt alone (unsupervised). The FWC course satisfies hunter-safety training requirements for all other states and Canadian provinces.

People interested in attending this course can register online and obtain information about future hunter safety classes at MyFWC.com/HunterSafety or by calling Hunter Safety Coordinator Will Burnett at the FWC's regional office in Panama City at 850-265-3676.

Williams left a legacy of devotion to students, community

DELAITRE JORDAN HOLLINGER
TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT

Several hundred mourners filed into Bethel Missionary Baptist Church on Saturday, to pay their last respects to M. Lucile Williams. Teachers, administrators, community leaders and elected officials gathered to honor the life of the Tallahassee education icon.

Williams, who died Aug. 8 at age 96, served dually as an unselfish and staunch advocate for improving the quality of life for residents of the Bond community, while rendering more than four decades of impeccable service to education. Though many and varied were the roles she attained as she climbed the ranks from teacher to district administrator, Williams is most remembered as the loving yet stern principal of Bond Elementary School.

I first learned of Williams as a rambunctious preschool student at the Smith-Williams Service Center, appropriately named in her honor. Even as a toddler, when my mother sparked my interest in history by reading books to me about Mary McLeod Bethune and Martin Luther King Jr., there were two things I marveled at in the Smith-Williams Center: lunchtime, and the prominently displayed portraits of Elder Owen Smith and Mrs. Lucile Williams.

I had the pleasure of speaking with Williams on numerous occasions during the course of my research for a book that I wrote on one of her colleagues and best friends, Aquilina Howell. She was very pleasant, helpful, and a walking history book full of information on African-American education in Leon County.

A native of Apalachicola, she was born Minnie Wynn in 1918 to George and Maude Wynn. George instilled determination and a strong work ethic in his daughter and four sons. Williams often quoted her father as saying, "Do your best and then some," a philosophy she would use throughout her life. In 1933, she moved to Tallahassee, graduating from the original Lincoln High School in 1935, and from Florida A&M University with a degree in mathematics in 1940. She earned her M.Ed. in administration and supervision in 1953 from the same institution, and the Ed.S. degree from Florida State University.

Williams spent three decades as a teacher, educating hundreds of students in Franklin, Madison, Wakulla, and

Gulf counties before settling at Bond. Hired by Walton S. Seabrooks, as an instructor and later assistant to the principal, Williams championed the creation of a highly active Parent Teacher Association, recruited faculty, visited the homes of students, encouraged school plays and student organizational troops, and insisted upon Bond becoming a community institution. She continued in this role until moving to the school system's district office in the 1970s as area curriculum coordinator and director of summer Head Start.

At Seabrooks' retirement in 1973, Williams became Bond's principal.

Having a big heart and little patience for stagnation, she avidly sought out ways to provide much needed services to the underserved area in which the school was located. Williams immediately went to work, lobbying the City Commission and anyone who would listen for a multipurpose center that would provide much needed medical care, meeting space and social services for senior citizens. Her efforts resulted in the construction of the Smith-Williams Service Center, which opened in 1981, just three months after the conclusion of her tenure as Bond's principal. She retired from the school district in 1984 as coordinator of elementary education.

Williams continued to keep busy, as she was an integral part in the effort to open what is now the Dr. B.L. Perry Jr. Branch Library and the Bond Community Health Center. Additionally, she provided meritorious service as a member of Bethel Missionary Baptist Church in her work to assist in establishing the Bethel Christian Academy and the Steele-Collins Charter School. She served on an incalculable number of government boards and committees, and she was a member of several community organizations, all with the needs of the community, and a bright future for her students in mind.

In addition to having her name etched into the annals of Tallahassee history with the Smith-Williams Center, she received numerous awards for her devotion to children's causes, including the FAMU Education Gallery of Distinction, TCC African-American History Calendar, and the creation of the Lucile Williams Cornerstone Award, and the Lucile Williams Mini-Grant for Students.

Williams left a legacy of devotion to students, community...

continued

Lucile Williams set a high bar for others to follow. Let's honor her unstinting advocacy and efforts by striving every day to ask ourselves what we are doing for others.

Delaitre Jordan. Hollinger is student body president at Tallahassee Community College. Contact him at laitre1@yahoo.com.

MSHA announces \$8.3M in state grant funding

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

(NOTE: The original story included a list of grant recipients. Tallahassee Community College received a grant of \$171,509.)

The U.S. Department of Labor's Mine Safety and Health Administration announced today that it has allocated \$8,348,423 in health and safety training grants for 46 states and the Navajo Nation in fiscal year 2014.

Grantees will use the funds to provide federally mandated training to miners. The grants cover training and retraining of miners working at surface and underground coal and metal and nonmetal mines, including miners engaged in shell dredging or employed at surface stone, sand and gravel mining operations.

Grants were awarded based on applications from states, and they are administered by state mine inspectors' offices, state departments of labor, and state-supported colleges and universities. Each recipient tailors the program to the needs of its mines and miners — including mining conditions and hazards miners may encounter — and also provides technical assistance.

The state grants program was authorized by the Federal Coal Mine Health and Safety Act of 1969. States first received funding to provide health and safety training to miners in 1971.

"These state grants support the safety and health mission contained in the Mine Act," said Joseph A. Main, assistant secretary of labor for mine safety and health. "These federal funds will enable miners to better prepare for the task at hand and arm them with the proper knowledge to avoid accidents and injuries."

In addition to health and safety training, some states use these grants to support their mine emergency response efforts and other Mine Act functions.

More facts about Wakulla Springs

SANDY COOK

WAKULLA NEWS (LETTERS TO THE EDITOR)

Editor, The News:

Two letters in the July 31 issue of the Wakulla News contained a few statements that deserve follow-up.

One writer ("Our kids deserve to make memories too") stated Cherokee Sink was closed to swimming due to neglect and that bacteria and garbage clogged the sink making it unusable for swimming.

The fact is Cherokee Sink is currently opened to swimmers and one can still jump off the rocks and have the experience of swimming in a sinkhole like many Wakulla county residents have done for years.

Cherokee Sink was in fact closed in 2009 due to Department of Health regulations that required flush toilets, a rule that has since been eliminated. Much work has been done at Cherokee Sink including tons of debris removal, healing of severe erosion and construction of steps and boardwalks.

Although a good hike is required to get there, the reward is well worth the walk.

The second letter by Commissioner Jerry Moore ("Commissioner Moore on WEI proposal") suggests that people who support Wakulla Springs are opposed to the Wakulla Environmental Institute.

I think it's safe to say that most, if not all, people support the concept of an environmental institute in Wakulla County. It is a project that with the right leadership and direction can pull our community together rather than causing dissention.

In regards to Commissioner Moore's comment about Wakulla Springs non-participation in the state park reservation system, the "springs group" was not involved or aware of the decision. It was determined by the vendor and park management that the lodge with its many other group services would not be compatible with a campsite reservation system.

Using untrue comments, making fun of issues that many people consider serious and resorting to name calling (CAVE people) only serves to worsen a situation, particularly when done by an elected official. Many people on both sides of this and other issues want what is best for the county. We just have different opinions on how to get there.

Let's stick to the facts and treat one another with respect.

TCC's Ryan Deckert signs with Florida A&M

BRAD DALTON

WTXL

Florida A&M University head baseball coach Jamey Shoupe has announced the signing of Tallahassee Community College standout Ryan Deckert to a national grant-in-aid.

Deckert, a Tallahassee native and former prep standout at Leon High School, joins the Rattlers following a two-year career with the Eagles that produced a 3-1 record and 3.75 ERA in 25 career appearances.

"As someone who grew up in Tallahassee, I've seen Ryan pitch his whole life," said Shoupe, the 2014 MEAC Coach of the Year. "I'm excited about the opportunity to work with him."

Shoupe also emphasized the opportunity for Deckert to learn from newly-appointed pitching coach Bryan Henry, another Tallahassee product who enjoyed a wildly successful career at both the collegiate and professional levels.

"I know we're getting a good pitcher and can keep him going in the right direction in order to help him achieve his dream of playing professional baseball."

Deckert, along with twin brother, Nick, pledged their commitments to Tallahassee head coach Mike McLeod and the Eagles in 2011 but Tommy John surgery delayed Ryan's collegiate debut until the 2013 season. As a freshman, he pitched in ten games and posted a 3.55 ERA during the Eagles' Panhandle Conference Championship season.

This past season, he saw action in 15 games and totaled 37.2 innings on the mound.

"I'm so proud of Ryan," said McLeod. "He's overcome Tommy John surgery and I believe his best days are ahead of him as a pitcher. As he distances himself more and more from the surgery, he'll get stronger. He's nowhere close to reaching his ceiling

"He's going to a program where Jamey and Bryan can take him further in his development."

With Florida A&M's announcement, Deckert becomes the 14th and final member of the 2014 Eagles to move on to a four-year program. He's also Tallahassee Community College's first baseball signee at Florida A&M since Shoupe was named head coach in 2013.

Disney Springs: Florida's future?

What do we want from our natural wonders?

MARK HOHMEISTER

TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT

My ever-alert daughter-in-law, Holly, this week sent me a link to an announcement about Disney's "Imagineering" team and its plans to create a new destination: Disney Springs.

I paused briefly to look up "imagineering" in my Associated Press-approved dictionary. It's not there, though apparently this melding of imagination and engineering has been inflicted on the language since the 1940s.

Then I read on.

Disney Springs, which will replace Downtown Disney, is a town with neighborhoods, an imaginary storyline and of course lots of water. The drawings look a bit like the historic section of St. Augustine, but probably with more mouse hats for sale.

I watched an accompanying video open-mouthed, then forwarded it to Jennifer Portman, a senior writer who has covered many springs issues here at the Democrat. She was closer to apoplectic.

This wasn't the vision of springs we thought most Floridians shared. Maybe we were wrong.

Florida's numerous and beautiful natural springs have been in trouble for years.

At Wakulla Springs, invasive hydrilla chokes the waters, slimy algae thrive on pollutants, and the glass-bottom boats rarely run because you no longer can see to the bottom of the main spring. A little father south, Spring Creek has been going dry periodically since 2006, allowing salt water to push into the aquifer.

Silver Springs, a major tourist attraction in Central Florida in the pre-Disney days, also has dealt with algae and clouded water as the nearby land was developed. Ditto for the Ichetucknee River, a favorite with folks who love to float downstream on tubes.

Earlier this year, photographer John Moran's "Springs Eternal" exhibit highlighted horror stories: mats of algae at Fanning Springs State Park, a concrete-enclosed White Sulphur Springs that looks more like a filthy bathtub.

It's the same at many of the more than 1,000 freshwater springs in Florida. Development and agriculture cut into the water flow while creating nutrient-filled runoff, which feeds the algae, which signals the downward slide.

In an election-year promise, Gov. Rick Scott has pledged \$500 million over the next 10 years for springs restoration. That won't solve the problem. And it won't settle the differences over the proper use of our springs.

Consider a recent battle concerning Wakulla Springs and a proposal from Tallahassee Community College's Wakulla Environmental Institute to lease 1,850 acres in the state park and build an RV and tent campground. It wasn't the first time such a proposal had been made, and though WEI has backed off, does anyone really think it will be the last?

Listen to Disney Imagineering Executive Creative Director Theron Skees in a video about the mythical Disney Springs. Excitedly describing the "storyline" behind Disney Springs, he says, "Our story starts, much like waterfront towns all over Florida. There was a little green field, there was a natural spring that was found ... and Disney Springs really leverages that story and says, well what if there were a beautiful, natural springs that a whole town was built on, and then over time that town was converted into a retail, dining and entertainment venue that's something that the world hasn't seen before?"

Disney Springs will include "more than 150 shopping, dining and entertainment experiences." Oh joy.

I stared at my computer screen, depressed. Will Disney's fantasy storyline become our history?

If you want to know the magic spell that springs can cast on a visitor, read Ali Hussain's column. But to heck with beauty. To heck with the vanished limpkin, the idle glass-bottom boats. The big question apparently is: Can it make us some money?

Help the EDC in surveying our future

JIM MURDAUGH

TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT

The Economic Development Council of Tallahassee/ Leon County Inc. is the region's designated economic development organization, focused upon the betterment of the shared business community.

As the official economic development organization of record for our capital community, we are entrusted with key business recruitment, retention, expansion and entrepreneurship support duties and objectives, with the ultimate goal of supporting sustainable economic growth. Listening, responding and hopefully anticipating the needs and concerns of our local businesses are keys to ensuring that sustained economic growth.

It's vital that we continually reach out to our local businesses to gauge their future plans as well as what resources, initiatives and services can help make them, and ultimately our region, more successful.

To achieve this goal, the EDC is issuing an existing-employer survey (go to <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/PT33QPH>) to gather economic data and key data baselines about industry activity, staffing plans, barriers to success as well as talent and training needs. These data will allow the EDC to better allocate resources to those areas where our local businesses need assistance or see opportunities for a more robust local economy and generate a top-tier quality of life within our community.

The EDC works closely with our local, regional and state economic development, workforce development, and entrepreneurial resource partners. This survey will be sent by the EDC and these partners in the hope of reaching the more than 8,000 businesses licensed in Leon County, as well as employers from neighboring counties within the MSA.

One of these key partners is the Tallahassee Regional Airport, which is responsible for almost 700,000 total passengers each year. Led by new Director of Aviation Chris Curry, the airport is one of the driving economic factors in our community and key to allowing Tallahassee/Leon County to grow. The EDC recognizes the important role our airport plays as an economic asset and is working with Curry on requesting business travel data to support the airport's potential future plans to add routes, specifically to New York and Fort Lauderdale.

Director Curry and City Commissioner Scott Maddox met with key air service/aviation development executives from targeted carriers in an attempt to secure expanded routes from TLH. By compiling this data, Curry and his team will have established metrics highlighting the region's potential for market development and growth, with the goal of increasing travel options both to and from Tallahassee.

This survey, and your participation in it, is essential to our ability to grow our economic base, including the expansion of existing industries and the recruitment of new ones. We are proud to collaborate closely with our partners in this communitywide survey with the goal of implementing key priorities to enhance our region. We hope that every business owner receives the survey, but if you haven't, please visit the link above and let your voice be heard. We hope everyone will take the time to complete it and give us your feedback so our community can better support your business by anticipating changing economic priorities as well as ensuring our region remains competitive.

Jim Murdaugh is president of Tallahassee Community College and chair of the Economic Development Council of Tallahassee/Leon County (<http://taledc.com>). He can be reached at murdaugj@tcc.fl.edu.

Research donors in advance

Nonprofit tip of the week

TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT

Do your research on donors ahead of time. Asking for donations is hard enough without alienating yourself from your potential support network.

Before you approach, you need to have a broad understanding of what kinds of people donate to your nonprofit. You also need to have a thorough understanding of your potential donors as individuals and as part of the larger target market. What are their passions? How do those passions align with your nonprofit's objectives? Do prospective donors have a history of giving? What causes do they already support? You want them to be thinking, "Wow, it's like they read my mind!"

How do you get to that point? Start by searching online. Attend networking events. Read feature articles in the newspaper. Ideally, by the time you reach out to a donor, you will be meeting them on their terms. Understand what they are looking for in an organization they would want to support, and they will want to support yours.

The Institute for Nonprofit Innovation and Excellence (INIE) is a management support organization that enhances the capacity and leadership of nonprofits through advocacy, education and engagement. To find out more, visit www.theinstitutefornonprofits.org.

Scholarships awarded to TCC students

MEGAN VAUGHN

WTXL

Four hardworking Tallahassee Community College students have been awarded a new scholarship. And these students are the first of many.

WTXL partnered with local companies and TCC to provide the Dedicated Companies Scholarship to qualifying students.

TCC students who are first generation college attendees, honorably discharged veterans, and single parents of children under 18 entered to receive the scholarship.

Four one-time, \$3,000 awards have been given for the fall 2014.

This isn't a students only chance to receive the scholarship though, students who qualify can submit an application to enter which will be available in September of 2014.

The scholarship is made possible through funds from WTXL Dedicated Companies partners, including Gold's Gym, Kraft Nissan, Home Instead Senior Care, Rowe Roofing, and the Tallahassee Board of Realtors.

TCC eager to open Wakulla Environmental Institute

Contracts for 10,000 square ft. building not approved yet

DOUG BLACKBURN

TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT

Administrators at Tallahassee Community College have high hopes for the Wakulla Environmental Institute, which has received \$6 million in state and federal funding to date.

Jim Murdaugh, TCC's president, has talked about it becoming a "global destination" and a "game changer" for Wakulla County. On Wednesday, he told the Democrat's editorial board that it will be off the grid and "net zero" the moment it opens.

But first it has to be built.

The WEI – which will focus on education, recreation and conservation – began with \$4.5 million from the Legislature in 2012. That allowed the college to purchase roughly 160 acres off Highway 319 three miles south of Crawfordville. TCC received an additional \$1.5 million earlier this year from the U.S. Department of Commerce's Economic Development Administration to use for infrastructure at WEI.

But the federal grant also required TCC to clear numerous hurdles, which WEI Executive Director Bob Ballard described as the "bad news" regarding the grant.

As a result, TCC has yet to approve construction contracts for the 10,000-square-foot WEI building, forcing the college to push back the projected grand opening from March 2015 to July.

"We're real close (to completing the paperwork)," Ballard said. "The protocols for what we have to do for the state and for the feds, we have to get those to gel. The building will be complete in July. It may be the end of July, but it will be July."

Murdaugh has experience taking a concept and turning it into reality. He was executive director of TCC's Pat Thomas Law Enforcement Academy when it was transformed into the Florida Public Safety Institute. He has even higher expectations for WEI, beginning with the building.

"The building has to make a statement," he said. "It has to show we're committed to the environment."

TCC offering Plus 50 medical courses

TALLAHASSEE — Tallahassee Community College is offering two online courses to help prepare students age 50 and older for new jobs and careers in the medical field at no cost to the student.

The courses are Health Information Management (HIM) and HIV & Bloodborne Pathogens. Students age 50 and older are eligible to enroll in the courses at no cost. Students younger than 50 may take either course for \$15 each.

Both courses primarily target students working in entry-level healthcare positions, such as office and clerical staff, rather than doctors or nurses. The motivation is to provide tools for enrollees to move into a more personally rewarding job with better pay.

HIM is an entry-level certification course for people interested in healthcare information and management systems. Achieving the Certified Associate in

Healthcare Information and Management Systems (CAHIMS) credential establishes a solid foundation to advance a career path within the healthcare industry.

HIV & Bloodborne Pathogens reviews modes of infection, safety procedures, counseling methods and other topics related to bloodborne pathogens. The course provides a base of knowledge related to HIV and bloodborne pathogens for a variety of career fields, and complies with

Chapter 381.0035 Florida Statutes.

Free enrollment in the courses is made possible by a grant from the American Association of Community Colleges as part of the organization's Plus 50 program. Both courses will be offered at no cost to students 50 and older until 100 students are served in each course.

For information, contact TCC's Division of Workforce Development at 850-201-8760 or workforce@tcc.fl.edu.

Instructor training ahead at Public Safety Institute

The Florida Public Safety Institute (FPSI) will host its annual Instructor Training Seminar Oct. 5 to 10 at its Havana campus.

The event aims

to provide training for instructors from law enforcement agencies all over the southeast United States. FPSI expects between 200 and 300 officers to attend the event.

Registration begins at 11 a.m. Sunday, Oct. 5, and classes continue all week from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Scheduled events include a Leadership Training class instructed

by Walton County Sheriff Michael Atkinson, a National Rifle Association pistol match, an obstacle course and a 5k run.

Polk County Deputy Sheriff Michael Braswell

will speak at the opening ceremonies on Sunday. The Thursday evening banquet will feature another guest speaker to be announced at a later date.

For information, contact Gigi Hawthorne at 850-201-7081 or hawthorg@tcc.fl.edu, or Hayley Hebrock at 850-201-7063 or hebrockh@tcc.fl.edu.

TCC computer club members are tech coaches

Six served as mentors for high school students at camp

CARMY GREENWOOD
THE CHRONICLE

Six members of Tallahassee Community College's computer club, TC4, recently spent a week serving as volunteer tech coaches for high school students at TCC's free Computers and the Virtual World camp.

Barry Walker, president of TC4, said that club members, all of whom are TCC students, were asked to help by TCC faculty member Carlos Torres, assistant professor of computer networking.

Torres realized that the college students would be ideal mentors for the younger students. "It was great to see both generations of students here working together."

Torres and fellow faculty member Byron Todd, professor of computer networking, led most of the lessons while the TCC students circulated around the room helping campers with the hands-on skills they were practicing.

"Campers got to take apart desktops and laptops and put them back together. They made cable and learned how to create a virtual network," said Walker, who will graduate in December with an associate degree in network technology.

Walker led one of the campers' favorite activities, setting up a Raspberry Pi, a credit-card-sized computer that plugs into a TV and keyboard and sells for only \$35. It can be used to create documents, browse the Internet, even manage devices. The Pi was developed by a nonprofit foundation in the United Kingdom to give young people a fun, inexpensive way to learn basic programming.

Walker introduced the Raspberry Pi and showed campers how it works. Campers were then surprised to learn that each of them would receive a Pi to take home. Walker had even made cardboard cases for the little computers—complete with a TCC logo and other decorations.

Students also took a tour of TCC's Advanced Manufacturing Training Center led by faculty member, Bruce Batton, where they learned about computer-aided manufacturing and even got to do some virtual welding.

On the final day, each camper made a short presentation for visiting families and friends. Many of them mentioned how glad they were that the camp focused on hands-on learning instead of lectures.

"On the first day, we already had our hands in the guts of a computer," said camper Max Vickers.

The campers also enjoyed a visit from Shawn Einarson, director of career and technical education, who talk with them about career opportunities in information technology.

The camp was spearheaded by Kate Stewart, dean of TCC's Division of Technology and Professional Programs, and organized by Mike Vickers, computer technology lab manager.

For more information, contact Carlos Torres at torresc@tcc.fl.edu or 201-8966.

County will take building for free!



The W.A. Woodham Justice Center

By Byron Spires,
Herald Editor

Tallahassee Community College (TCC) has made a proposal to sell the W.A. Woodham Center (sheriff's office building) to the county.

TCC has been leasing the building

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THURSDAY, AUGUST 28, 2014

Center/from front page

to the county for \$1 a year since 1999. The lease expires in 2049 but can be ended with a 90-day notice by either side.

TCC wants to dispose of the property rather than continuing the current lease agreement and has made an offer to sell it for \$100,000 to the county.

Should the county decide to accept the offer, the proposal states TCC has indicated that the sale proceeds will be endowed by the College Foundation to provide scholarships for Gadsden County residents each academic year. The county commission would receive recognition for this TCC endowment.

According to the agenda report, the county staff has told the board that there were extensive repairs needed at the building.

For nearly an hour last week the county commission discussed the purchase of the building.

The discussion centered around the repairs needed for the building and the amount of money.

Commissioner Doug Croley opposed the purchase saying that in this year's budget, arrangements have been made to fund a new administrative building to be located at the jail for the sheriff's office.

Commissioner Gene Morgan made a motion to accept the building if TCC was willing to give it to the county.

Chairman Eric Hinson said he wanted the building even if the sheriff's office was not located there, saying he thought it could be used to help generate business.

Commissioner Brenda Holt stated she could see the building used for start-up businesses as well, adding that she thought it would make a good business incubator.

Morgan's motion passed 3-2 with Croley and Commissioner Taylor voting against the measure.

Taylor stated that she wanted the county to buy the property for the \$100,000 and have the funds placed in an endowment to the TCC Foundation for the county as her reason for voting against the measure.

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SCHOOL NEWS

TCC offers Plus 50 medical courses

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The courses are Health Information Management

(HIM) and HIV & Bloodborne Pathogens. Students age 50 and over are eligible to enroll in the courses at no cost. Students under 50 may take either course for \$15 each.

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entry-level healthcare positions, such as office and clerical staff, rather than doctors or nurses. The motivation is to provide tools for enrollees to move into a more personally rewarding job with better pay.

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Crossroad Academy off to a good start



TCC receives gifts from FCS Foundation

TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT (CAMPUS NOTES)

The Florida College System Foundation presented TCC with scholarship donation checks totaling over \$29,000 at TCC's board meeting last month.

The college received \$9,602 in nursing and Allied Health scholarships from Florida Blue, and \$15,186 from Helios Education Foundation and \$4,326 from Bank of America for First Generation scholarships.

Wendy Abberger, president of Leadership Florida, and Trustee Karen Moore presented the checks. Both are members of the FCS Foundation.

For information, contact Ranie Thompson, TCC Foundation executive director, at (850) 201-6064 or thompsor@tcc.fl.edu.

11 TCC students spend summer in China

TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT (CAMPUS NOTES)

This past summer, instead of spending their break relaxing or working, 11 TCC students boarded a plane and set out on a 20-hour flight to the People's Republic of China as part of the College's China Study Abroad Program.

The program takes students on a once-in-a-lifetime adventure all over the country, allowing them to study China's rich history, culture and language. A significant component of the program is working with students from Tianjin Foreign Studies University in Tianjin City to develop business plans for Chinese entrepreneurs to export to the United States.

TCC's dream

Buy-in from Wakulla County residents is essential to avoid another public-relations disaster

TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT

Tallahassee Community College hasn't given up on its dream of using nearly 2,000 acres of land within Wakulla Springs State Park as part of its long-range vision for Wakulla County.

But before you grab your torches and pitchforks, it's worth considering what the springs need, what Wakulla County needs and how TCC can be an important part of both.

First, a brief review of the issue. In May, TCC's Wakulla Environmental Institute made a request to lease the land from the Florida Park Service for the next 50 years. TCC, which is active in workforce development, would have used the land to train future park managers.

But there also were plans for a camp site near Cherokee Sink, which is part of the system of sinkholes and caves linked to Wakulla Springs, and the image of RVs lined up on the previously undeveloped land brought opposition from citizens and environmental groups.

In late July, TCC withdrew its request, saying it needed more time to address community concerns — and also fearing that the lease could become an issue in the coming governor's race.

Through its many programs, TCC has done a lot to boost the economies of area counties, from law enforcement and health care in Gadsden County to aquaculture in Wakulla County. TCC President Jim Murdaugh said last week that he wanted to help make Wakulla County a world-class destination, using education, recreation and conservation in an environmentally responsible way.

Mr. Murdaugh saw the lease of Cherokee Sink as a way to leverage the strengths of both the state and TCC: TCC didn't have the money to buy land, and the state didn't have the money for programs or for restoring the Cherokee Sink tract, which was clear-cut more than 30 years ago. So this partnership was to benefit both and help TCC train the "next generation of foresters."

Mr. Murdaugh and Bob Ballard, director of the Wakulla Environmental Institute, point out that most large state parks include camping areas, and TCC wanted to take this opportunity to show how to do it right.

Plans included everything from hookups to the county's central sewer to electric hookups (meaning no loud RV generators) to possibly designing energy-efficient yurts (a popular camping structure based on the homes of Central Asian nomads).

Mr. Ballard said: "We want to be so creative that people come out here and say, 'Wow, that is really cool!'"

Still, no matter the "cool" factor, there are going to be people upset that TCC is still researching the issue and is not ruling out reviving its plans for Cherokee Sink. And despite what Mr. Ballard might choose to believe, it's not the "the same group of 25" opposing any progress in the county.

A public hearing on the plan drew a standing-room-only crowd of about 90 people to the Woodville branch of the Leon County Public Library.

Former park employees and representatives of environmental groups opposed the plan.

Beyond that, this is a symbol of a long-running battle over the direction Wakulla County should take. As the Wakulla County Commission moved toward repealing a wetlands ordinance this year, opponents gathered more than 5,000 signatures, enough to place a wetlands-protection initiative on the November ballot.

Citizens in Wakulla County — indeed, throughout the Big Bend — are passionate about this area's natural beauty.

Eco-tourism is great, but without pristine springs and the perception that this is a unique and wild place, there would be no eco-tourism.

"Eco-tourism is Wakulla's future," Mr. Murdaugh said. "We want to look back on this with a lot of pride."

That's an excellent place to start.

The effort to lease the land around Cherokee Sink was a public-relations disaster, but TCC can't just refine its message. It must work with the people of Wakulla County, showing them not only that it can be a leader in economic development and maybe even build a better campground, but that it can build trust throughout the community.

Leadership Academy changes your life

PATRICIA B. MCCRAY
TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT

I am a wife and mother to three adult children and now Nana to four beautiful granddaughters. I am also employed as a manager in local government. As the days and hours roll along in our careers and our personal lives, we often times settle in and just enjoy the ride. We aren't really looking to make any changes or to do anything different.

Recently, I have experienced change, and that change is good! It has given me new ideas and broken the monotony of day-to-day tasks. This change has refreshed my thinking and motivated me to move outside of my comfort zone to establish a personal and professional goal of becoming a more effective and efficient leader.

You're probably wondering what sparked the change. After researching the leadership opportunities in the community, I was told to check out the Leadership Academy of North Florida, a partnership of Tallahassee Community College's Division of Workforce Development and Gabrielle Consulting Inc.'s Plugged In Leadership. After speaking with Gabrielle Gabrielli, I knew this program was just what I was needed.

I have learned so much in the Leadership Academy of North Florida. The academy is comprehensive and takes a holistic approach in looking at all the aspects that comprise a strong leader. The program is professionally organized and includes personal and professional assessments, coaching, mentoring and many other new approaches to life and leadership.

This program has changed my personal and professional life in ways I never thought possible. I now have more focus and knowledge to actualize my dreams and aspirations. I have embraced my life passion while learning new concepts to achieve personal success through balance in work and at home. Each day as I awake, the energy and determination are incredible. I have emerged into a beautiful butterfly and living my life purpose.

More importantly, in my role as a supervisor, it has increased my leadership effectiveness, which allows me to more adequately motivate others to reach their peak performance. It also has increased my comfort level in networking with community leaders.

I have participated in many leadership programs, but the Leadership Academy of North Florida clearly rises to the top. The program days are always interactive, and lifelong learning is encouraged not only by the instructor, but by all of the participants, whose ages range from 25 to 70. It's such an amazing opportunity to listen and share knowledge with others about everyday situations that lead to improving your leadership skills.

I encourage you to enroll in the Leadership Academy. It will open your mind to new ideas and refresh what you had learned previously and forgotten, no matter how old you are or the years you've been employed as a supervisor, manager, director or entrepreneur. It's time to embrace your challenges, to evolve and emerge as does the caterpillar into a beautiful butterfly.

Patricia B. McCray is the CEO of Butterfly Life Journeys Inc. Contact her at pbm@butterflylifejourneys.com.

21st century skills key to career & college readiness

TRACEY LOWE

FLORIDA CHAMBER FOUNDATION NEWSLETTER

As the school year begins, students throughout Florida are getting acquainted with their new teachers and classes. Many are also thinking heavily about the future—what college or program is the right fit for them and what their lives will look like after graduating high school. And with good reason. Today's information-based economy and the workforce students are stepping into require very different skill sets from those of their grandparents.

In 1973, workers with postsecondary education held only 28 percent of jobs. As we look forward to 2020, that figure rises dramatically. In the not too distant future, 65 percent of all jobs will require postsecondary education and training beyond high school.

Preparing students to graduate career and college ready has a new meaning in our 21st century global economy. In addition to core subjects such as reading, math and science, today's students must also master skills such as critical thinking and problem solving, communication and collaboration.

Dr. Jim Murdaugh, president of Tallahassee Community College (TCC) recently appeared on the Florida Chamber's web-based program, The Florida Chamber's Bottom Line. When asked about education and the talent development pipeline in Florida, Murdaugh said, "The way in which we talk about it [talent] today has a new flavor. We recognize the importance of the men and women that work in our organizations as it relates to our bottom line and our productivity. It's not so much about jobs but about skills and making sure people have the right skills. Talent is what businesses need to focus on because it's 80-90 percent of their entire cost of operation."

While the skills required for today's workforce are numerous, so are the opportunities and choices students have as they plan their future. Community and state colleges play vital roles in preparing tomorrow's workforce and offer a variety of technical training and certification programs as well as two-year college degrees. They also have the flexibility and ability to evolve and customize their programs in response to the needs of their region's economy.

"TCC and community colleges throughout Florida

provide the education and training required for our state's workforce needs," said Murdaugh. "Through our partnerships with local businesses, the Department of Economic Opportunity and CareerSource Florida, we are able to provide a better trained, better skilled talent pool."

As students consider their future path, Career and Professional Education (CAPE) academies offer other options. CAPE academies, which provide career-related courses that articulate into postsecondary-level coursework, allow high school students to earn industry certifications, preparing them with job skills needed in industries such as avionics, biomedicine, diesel mechanics and information technology.

This greater emphasis on postsecondary education and training is reflected in Florida's academic standards for K-12 students. The Florida Department of Education implemented the Florida Standards to focus on improving students' critical thinking skills and to ensure more successful outcomes after graduation. These standards are designed to help Florida's students begin to develop the skills they need to be successful, as well as to help cultivate a workforce that will benefit Florida's economic development and global competitiveness.

And while many consider preparing students to be career and college ready a K-12 issue, this preparation actually begins at birth. Early childhood education (from birth to age 8), is essential for a child's development of both cognitive and non-cognitive skills. Preparing our youngest students to learn provides a solid foundation and helps them develop important skills that are essential to their future success.

Join Tallahassee Community College and our growing list of Champions by telling your story. If your business or organization is involved in a program or activity that helps students prepare for a 21st century workforce, we would like to tell your story in our Champions newsletter. Contact Tracey Lowe at TLowe@FLFoundation.org for more information.

(NOTE: Article truncated for relevance to TCC and to conserve space.)

Time for Business Excellence Awards



By **KEVIN VAUGHN**
Chamber President

Your Chamber represents the collective voice for our vital business community. It is our responsibility as members to be sure the voice of business is at the table and is heard when any issue comes before our great community. Thanks to hard working volunteers within our membership, we are fortunate that this important work is taking place on an ongoing basis.

One of the ways we celebrate the success of our members is our annual Business Excellence Awards Banquet. This year the banquet will take place Sept. 18. With over 100 nominations this year, it's sure to be a fun and exciting event.

Categories include Business of the Year, Start-up Business of

the Year, Non-Profit Organization of the Year, Environmental Stewardship Business of the Year, Member of the Year and Director of the Year. Each category is judged based on achievement of excellence in the members respective field and their outstanding achievements and contributions to our community.

It's always exciting to see entrepreneurial spirit alive and well in our county as recognized by the Start-Up award. As a Chamber, we strive to continue to be your voice in support of continuing the excellent business environment we enjoy in our County. This allows that entrepreneurial spirit to be converted to real live businesses that contribute to our economy in many ways.

We look forward to seeing you at the Business Excellence Awards Banquet. We hope you can attend this special event and help us celebrate another successful year for our members!

*Kevin Vaughn
is president of the
Wakulla Chamber of
Commerce.*

BOCC considers buying Woodham building from TCC — if it's free

ISSAC MORGAN
Times Correspondent

At the Tuesday, Aug. 19, city commission meeting, most of the requests on the agenda were approved, with the exception of one major offer that received most of the attention.

The topic on the agenda that ignited

opposing views was Tallahassee Community College's offer to purchase the W.A. Woodham building for \$100,000. The county's current leasing agreement with TCC is from 1999 to 2049. Presented on official letter head from TCC President Jim Murdaugh, the sale proceeds would sup-

port scholarship initiatives for Gadsden County residents and the commissioners would receive recognition.

County Administrator Robert Presnell introduced the item for further discussion and explained that "the building needs extensive repairs." The board began to

voice their opinions on the ramifications of accepting the offer or not.

Commissioner Doug Croley expressed his unwillingness to acquire the property for the proposed offer and addressed his issues and concerns with its poor condition.

"I'm not willing to

take the building; it's the most ridiculous business move," said Croley. "If we take the building, there are drainage issues with adjoining property owners and issues about that now. We need to make sure before (we) take it, that we look into all

See BOCC/Page 2A

BOCC

Continued from Page 1A
legal ramifications."

TCC desires to discontinue the \$1 per year lease agreement with the county for the W.A. Woodham building. According to Commissioner Gene Morgan, as long as the sheriff is present, the college won't tear the building down. He later noted that there is a "possibility of TCC giving us the building for free."

However, Commissioner Sherrie Taylor said that \$100,000 was a fair amount in support of scholarship initiatives for students in the area. She mentioned the city going after a USDA grant, which would help pay to make the building energy efficient and be an incentive for businesses.

Both Croley and Taylor opposed Morgan's motion to have the county administrator contact TCC and let them know the county would take the Woodham building free of charge. The motion passed 3-2.

Wakulla can do better

TOM SWIHART

TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT (LETTERS TO THE EDITOR)

Re: "TCC's dream" (Our Opinion, Aug. 31).

Your editorial about the TCC proposal to take over 2,000 acres of Wakulla Springs State Park is misguided. For example, you say, "Mr. Murdaugh and Bob Ballard, director of the Wakulla Environmental Institute, point out that most large state parks include camping areas." Nope. Of the 20 largest in the state park system (all much larger than Wakulla), only eight have any kind of campground.

You also should think hard before endorsing TCC statements that "eco-tourism is Wakulla's future." This region does have magnificent natural resources, but tourism wages are significantly below the state average. Don't you think that the people of Wakulla County are capable of achieving much more than that?

Olive Branch Network inauguration: Connect, inspire and give

FELICIA WARREN
THE CHRONICLE

Tallahassee Southern Model United Nations is hosting an Inauguration for its Olive Branch Network.

This is a mode of professional networking between Tallahassee Community College Model United Nations (TCC MUN) Students and Alumni of the program, as well as organization's Community Partners. The event will take place on Sept. 19 from 7-9 p.m. At this event invitees will have the opportunity to interact with local professionals as well as young aspiring minds.

The event will be held at Aloft Hotel in Downtown Tallahassee (200 N. Monroe Street Tallahassee FL 32301). This is the weekend of the Clemson vs. Florida State University football game, so those who are coming in for the event will also have the opportunity to explore the festivities of Downtown Get Down following the event.

There will be a cash bar for our guests that are of age as well as some complimentary hors d'oeuvres. Alumni will give their motivating testimonies, which will serve to inspire our younger generation. Last, but certainly not least, TSMUN will be hosting an International Silent Auction.

In addition to being an innovative networking opportunity, this night will also serve to raise funds for the organization through generous donations and the International Silent Auction.

The auction will showcase artifacts from around the globe, and all of the proceeds will go directly into the organization. The organization uses funds to host its annual conference as well as sponsor scholarships provided for the students. TCC MUN students will be in attendance, and this is a unique occasion to interact and encourage students to be a bigger influence in the world around them.

Tallahassee Southern Model United Nations (TSMUN) is a charity organization that consistently seeks to inspire students in their passions, and is dedicated to serving Middle and High School students by hosting an annual Model United Nations (MUN) conference.

For over 10 years, the organization has been successful in providing 2-year full tuition scholarships for students to attend Tallahassee Community College. Through its partnership with UNESCO Center for Peace, TSMUN now gives scholarships for students to attend International MUN conference in Washington D.C. TSMUN is getting ready to offer new scholarship and internship opportunities for college students in 2015.

This organization promotes global intellectuals who will play in imperative part in our global community. We are excited to see our Alumni interact with our TCC MUN students as well as eager to meet our current and potential Community Partners.

TCC sends seven to national GEAR UP

TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT (CAMPUS NOTES)

Seven Tallahassee high school students participated in the NCCEP/GEAR UP Youth Congress held in Washington, D.C., in late July.

The students are participants in the TCC Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs (GEAR UP) project, which supports early college awareness and preparation for youths from schools in low-income areas. They were selected for this unique opportunity from a pool of 8,500 students.

The Youth Congress program blends student-focused leadership development activities and training with life skills and strategies for increased learning.

Two TCC professors receive scholarships

TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT (CAMPUS NOTES)

Two TCC faculty members have received scholarships to the Chair Academy Florida Leadership Academy.

The program is designed to develop transformational leaders in colleges and universities by broadening participants' knowledge of leadership theories and principles.

Martin Balinsky, associate professor of earth science and president of the Faculty Senate, and Forster Agama, associate professor of English and faculty coordinator of the Global Learning Council, will attend two week-long academy sessions, one in October 2014 and the second in October 2015. They will work with a mentor to develop their management and leadership skills.

Award for TCC's Bourdeau

TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT (CAMPUS NOTES)

Larry Bourdeau, criminal justice coordinator at TCC, was selected to receive the Distinguished Service Award from the FSU College of Criminology and Criminal Justice and the Alumni & Friends of Criminology organization.

Bourdeau was chosen as a leader among alumni, continuing to demonstrate strong ties to the student body and serving as a role model for future alumni. Bourdeau will receive the award at the Alumni & Friends Criminology Hall of Fame Celebration on the evening of Oct. 3.

Isa Adney to bring story of community college success to Ivy Tech students

KOKOMO PERSPECTIVE

Author, speaker, blogger, YouTube video host and nationally recognized spokesperson for first-generation college students, Isa Adney will bring her message of how to succeed in community college to Logansport Sept. 9 and Kokomo Sept. 10. Students, faculty and members of the community are all invited to attend.

Adney will speak at 3:30 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 9, in the Community Room at Ivy Tech's Logansport campus and at 11 a.m. Wednesday, Sept. 10, in Alumni Hall at Ivy Tech's main building in Kokomo. The campuses' chapters of Phi Theta Kappa, the international academic honor society for community college students, is using the week to encourage Ivy Tech students to "commit to complete" their chosen course of study and earn their degrees.

Adney is well-qualified to speak about college completion and success at a community college. A first-generation college student, she entered community college with fear and anxiety but left with success – a member of Phi Theta Kappa and winner of a \$110,000 Jack Kent Cooke scholarship for further education. She is the first in her family to graduate with a bachelor's degree and she went on to earn her Master of Education degree from the University of Illinois, Champaign-Urbana.

Adney is a full-time speaker, author, host, and consultant, advocating for students across the country to help bridge the opportunity divide and give more students the chance to break the cycles of poverty through education. [She also serves on the board of directors for the Florida College System Foundation.](#)

Adney shares advice with students across the country on her blog and YouTube channel, and founded the #SoCanU Project to help students around the world share their college success stories. [She is also the host of TCC22's college success television show "The SKiNNY on College Success".](#)

(Note: Article truncated for relevance to TCC.)



TCC
FSU
Golden Guarantee Program

BEGIN YOUR JOURNEY TO AN FSU DEGREE
AT TALLAHASSEE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

WWW.TCC.FL.EDU/TCC2FSU

Text FLNEXT 29 to 41411 to request information

The advertisement features a central graphic with the text 'TCC' in blue, 'FSU' in dark blue, and a yellow '2' with an arrow pointing from TCC to FSU. Below this is the text 'Golden Guarantee Program'. The background is a photograph of a college campus with a brick building and a clock tower. At the bottom, there is a dark banner with white text.

The advertisement features a background image of a large, classical-style building with arched windows and towers. In the center, there is a white square logo with the text 'TCC' above 'FSU', with a stylized '2' and an arrow pointing from TCC to FSU. Below the logo, it says 'Golden Guarantee Program'. The main headline reads 'BEGIN YOUR JOURNEY TO AN FSU DEGREE'. Below that, a paragraph explains the program's benefits. At the bottom, there is a call to action to find out more and sign up today, with the website URL 'www.tcc.fl.edu/TCC2FSU'. A small disclaimer at the very bottom states 'TCC is an Equal Opportunity/Equal Access campus. Visit www.tcc.fl.edu for full statement.'

**TCC
2
FSU**
Golden Guarantee Program

BEGIN YOUR JOURNEY TO AN FSU DEGREE

The TCC2FSU program offers **guaranteed** admission into Florida State University if you stay on track and meet all transfer requirements as you complete your Associate in Arts degree at Tallahassee Community College. You will have a special orientation and advising opportunities with both TCC and FSU advisors to keep you on track to meet program requirements.

—find out more and sign up today
www.tcc.fl.edu/TCC2FSU

TCC is an Equal Opportunity/Equal Access campus. Visit www.tcc.fl.edu for full statement.