

TALLAHASSEE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

In the News



August 22, 2015 - September 18, 2015

TALLAHASSEE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

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TALLAHASSEE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

In the News



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- September 16, 2015 - WTXL - President Murdaugh takes entrepreneurship pledge

Academics, sports lure students to Tallahassee

BYRON DOBSON

TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT

Spending time on all three of our major college campuses last week provided an experience that added some perspective to living in the capital city.

Important takeaways were these thoughts: Tallahassee and its people leave a strong impression on visitors. I heard that over and over as I spent time at Florida State and Florida A&M universities reporting on the arrival of freshmen students eager to shed their high-school roles and get moving in this new world of college life. Classes start on Monday.

Over and over I heard parents commenting on how friendly everyone has been on both campuses and the personal receptions they encountered in the city.

It also occurred to me how much of a factor reputations have from those peering in from afar, when making the decision to spend thousands of dollars on tuition and other expenses to make sure Tallahassee is the right place to send their children.

Big factors include academic programs whose reputations extend much farther than Florida. Another factor is the ability to boast of winning sports programs that create a sense of excitement, fun and passion.

For instance, in talking to parents at FAMU, they not only mentioned that their son or daughter was planning to major in business. They specifically said "SBI," the term used commonly to in referring to the the School of Business and Industry, one of the university's flagship academic programs. One mother, helping her son unpack, proudly said he was a pre-pharmacy major, and talked as if FAMU's School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Science was the only choice for him.

Over at FSU, a student from Stuart said a factor in choosing Tallahassee was the school's retail merchandising program. A father talked of following national rankings of FSU's accounting program and how he's convinced his son made the right choice because of the highly successful reputation FSU has in that major.

And, there was Black Devine, 19, of Santa Barbara, Calif., who plans to major in digital media production. His major draw: joining the legends of fans of FSU football.

"I've been to the last two games in Pasadena," he said. "I've just been cheering for the football team since an early age."

He talked eagerly about seeing how the team performs in the post-Jameis Winston era, and held head football coach Jimbo Fisher in high regard.

Being able to boast of a major college championship football team not only helps Seminole Boosters underwrite multi-million-dollar expansion projects, it helps recruit students from more than a thousand miles away who want to experience flexing their arms doing "The Tomahawk Chop" with authority.

And, while there are no dorms awaiting freshmen at Tallahassee Community College, there's plenty being planned on campus for new and returning students.

While covering the unveiling of the Pankowski Honors Lounge, TCC President Jim Murdaugh was clearly pleased in seeing members of the President's Circle who had gathered.

Murdaugh pointed out various successful business owners and others who believe in the college's mission and who want to be part of its success story through their financial contributions.

Building strong reputations in academia has its rewards, as evidenced at FSU, FAMU and TCC last week. It also helps bolster Tallahassee's reputation on a national level.

On Monday, thousands of bright, eager and innovative college students start classes in our city.

It's important to note that they're back, and welcome them.

Campuses come alive

Thousands of students return, making big impact on life in Tallahassee

BYRON DOBSON

TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT

If there's any doubt about the impact that Tallahassee's three main campuses have on this community, expect that to be erased today as 63,000 students begin classes.

It will be clear by the injection of new shoppers at Target and area malls, by more diners at restaurants, more calls for pizza deliveries, and in the number of volunteers participating in student-driven community engagement projects throughout Leon County.

Yes, this means more traffic along West Tennessee Street, on Appleyard Drive and along the South Adams/Monroe Street corridor.

That's a small price to pay for what Florida State, Florida A&M and Tallahassee Community College bring to this community in terms of groundbreaking research, student activism and economic development.

And while the beginning of the fall semester inspires the return of college football, each university is taking steps through new buildings, new programs and a renewed commitment to community involvement to highlight the real goal of academic learning.

The city is whole once again.

What's new on campus: Florida State University

Impressive freshmen: Florida State University welcomes a freshman class of about 6,200. Of those who were accepted into the university for the fall, the average high school grade point average was 4.0, with an average SAT score of 1856 and an average ACT composite score of 28.

FSU hosts record number of CARE students: Florida State enhanced its responsiveness to the needs of traditionally underrepresented students by providing additional funding to the Center for Academic Retention and Enhancement (CARE) to add almost 100 spots to the seven-week Summer Bridge Program. This increased the program's enrollment to 400 first-generation college students — an FSU record.

Record number of research licensing deals: Florida State's Office of Commercialization had a particularly productive year when it came to moving research from the lab to the business world. The commercialization office did a

record number of licensing deals this year — 13 — for researchers who were eager to put their technology into the marketplace. The most the university had ever done in one year was six. Additionally, they filed for 27 patents and helped eight startups get off the ground.

What's new on campus: Florida A&M University

Living-Learning Communities: FAMU's Living-Learning Communities provide a holistic and diverse style to student growth and education. Residents live in housing facilities which support these ideals through academic partnerships, service-learning opportunities and in-hall education.

Extended Student Services: Additional mentoring and other student support services are being provided to ensure that students stay in school and graduate on time. A year-round "One-Stop Shop" is being created so students won't have to jump through multiple hoops to register, get financial aid, enroll in classes, or secure housing.

FAMU's Passport Program: The President will host passport program services, allowing FAMU students to get free access to passports to encourage study abroad opportunities.

What's new on campus: Tallahassee Community College

Student ambassadors will be in classroom as part of the Connect 2 Complete Program, mentoring and assisting first-year students in their transition.

Multiple service projects are underway to beautify campus.

Intramural sport competitions between TCC and FAMU.

Service learning courses reaching out and being a resource to the community

Stronger athletics presence on campus

New Honors Lounge

Campus comes alive....*continued*

BY THE NUMBERS

FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY:

Projected enrollment for the fall semester: 42,000

Full-time tuition for in-state students: \$215.55 per credit hour

Full-time tuition for out of state students: \$721.10 per credit hour

Total number of employees: Regular employees: 6,374; OPS: 5,073

Annual payroll: Gross pay: \$530,622, 112; Employer tax: \$29,619,588; Employer benefits: \$102,598,053

Number of beds available on campus: 6,370

How much money generated annually to the local economy: A 2007 study (based on student spending, university budget and estimated visitors' spending at FSU) reveals that FSU's impact on the local economy would be \$3.9 billion in current dollars.

As of June 2013, FSU was either directly or indirectly responsible for about 34 percent of the employment in the Tallahassee area — or about 45,000 jobs.

Number of seats in Doak Campbell Stadium: 82,300.

Number of seats in Civic Center: 11,500.

FLORIDA A&M UNIVERSITY:

Projected enrollment for fall semester: 10,229 (from 2014-15 figures; estimates for 2015 not available)

Annual payroll: \$163,595,000 (salaries); \$18,824,000 (OPS)

Number of beds available on campus: 2,383

How much money generated annually to the local economy: \$653,600,000

Number of seats in Bragg Stadium: 25,500

Number of seats in Lawson Center: 8,470

TALLAHASSEE COMMUNITY COLLEGE:

Projected enrollment for fall semester: 11,500 (estimated)

Full-time tuition for in-state students: \$100.83 per credit hour/\$2.67 per clock hour

Full-time tuition for out-of-state students: \$387.27 per credit hour/\$10.68 per clock hour

Total number of employees: 714 full-time, 754 part-time (1,468 total)

Annual payroll: \$48,734,313, including salaries and benefits

Annual money generated to the local economy: \$387.7 million

Seats in athletic arena: 812 in the Bill Hebrock Eagledome, plus 500 in the TCC Softball Complex and 1,000 in Eagle Field (2,312 total)

(NOTE: This article truncated for relevance to TCC.)

TCC basketball player charged with vehicular grand theft

WCTV

A Tallahassee Community College basketball player has been charged with 3rd degree vehicular grand theft.

20-year-old Norbertas Giga was arrested by Tallahassee police Friday and charged with 3rd degree vehicular grand theft.

Giga originally committed to playing for Florida State in November of 2013 but played for TCC during the 2014-15 season.

TCC Athletic Director Rob Chaney told WCTV that Giga is currently enrolled for fall classes and said that once all of the relevant information has been evaluated, a decision will be made regarding Giga's status as a student and athlete at Tallahassee Community College.

The 6'10" Lithuanian forward averaged 7.8 points and 5.8 rebounds per game last season for the Eagles.

TCC seeks OK for 4-year nursing program

College pursuing degree after receiving requests from health care providers

BYRON DOBSON

TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT

Tallahassee Community College will seek approval Wednesday from the state Board of Education to begin offering a bachelor's degree program in nursing.

If granted approval from the state, TCC also will have to get acceptance from its accrediting body, the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools.

TCC trustees approved the proposal at a meeting Monday.

TCC President Jim Murdaugh said TCC has the faculty, staff and resources to begin the program in January if the requests are granted. TCC had sought approval from the Legislature last year for the program but that effort was stalled when legislators declared a moratorium on granting additional four-year degrees to community colleges.

That action now has expired, Murdaugh said. He added that getting state Board of Education approval is not automatic.

The college decided to pursue the degree after getting requests from Tallahassee Memorial HealthCare, Capital Regional Healthcare and Westminster Oaks.

"It's good for our community, therefore it's good for TCC," Murdaugh said.

Murdaugh said TCC has the support of Florida State and Florida A&M universities, who both offer nursing degrees. The problem, he said, is that their graduates often earn a four-year-degree, but accept employment elsewhere.

The hospitals lobbied for the bachelor of science degree in nursing because this is becoming the standard in basic health care. Mark O'Bryant, CEO at TMH, also wants the hospital to receive the national magnet designation. A hospital must have at least 80 percent of its nurses with bachelor's in nursing degrees to achieve that designation.

"Murdaugh said students can graduate now with an Associate of Science degree in nursing and test to become registered nurses. This program will allow those students to continue to get their bachelor's in nursing degree, which is considered a higher level of training.

Barbara Sloan, who is retiring next month as provost, said students won't be admitted to the bachelor's in nursing tract unless they already have the associate in science degree in nursing and hold an active nursing license.

"It's intended for working nurses or part-time nurses or those wanting to advance in nursing," she said, adding that nurses are being given a larger role in patient care management, which requires more skilled training.

Members of TCC's nursing faculty with doctorate degrees will be teaching the advanced classes, she said.

Tuition increases may be on the horizon

Murdaugh told trustees that TCC is entering another year without raising tuition, but he could not guarantee that would be the case next year.

Trustees approved an updated operating budget of \$62.221,825 million for the upcoming year.

Projected costs include \$48,734,313 in personnel expenses, \$12,538,311 in operating expenses and \$949,201 in building costs, technology and infrastructure upgrades.

Revenues included \$951,201 in performance funding from the state as TCC ranked third behind Santa Fe and Valencia colleges in meeting performance-based standards.

TCC has not raised tuition in five years and won't increase it this year, but that could change as costs increase and state funding continues to be questionable, Murdaugh said. This year's enrollment is down some from the previous year, with total credit hours at 284,159 compared to 285,717 in 2014-15.

At \$76.80 per credit hour, TCC offers the fourth lowest tuition per credit hour among the state's colleges.

For instance, Murdaugh told trustees, "we'll have to look beyond the state for construction funding," as there's so much competition for those dollars.

TCC seeks OK for 4-year nursing program....

continued

As for tuition costs, he said, "I'm proud that we are not raising tuition, but I'm not sure how much longer we can go without getting more in state funding."

At the same time, Murdaugh said, the college must remain affordable to continue its mission of offering an education at an affordable rate.

"We need to do all we can to get students in the door."

In other action:

- Trustees heard from consultants of the firm Brakeley Briscoe who have been hired to assist the college in planning a TCC 50th Anniversary Capital Campaign. Trustee Karen Moore will serve as campaign chairman.
- Trustees elected Donna Callaway chairman of the board and Randolph Pople, vice chairman.

One of Callaway's first charges was reminding trustees of their role in the upcoming capital campaign. "It is crucial that we engage ourselves," she said. "Every trustee ought to act on it."

- Four law firms seeking a contract to represent trustees, Andrews, Crabtree, Knox and Andrews; Baker Donelson; Isriel, Ponzoli and Simpson and Rumberger, Kirk and Caldwell, made brief presentations. The board will make a decision in September.

TCC Safety and Wellness Fair is Wednesday on campus

TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT (CAMPUS NOTES)

The Tallahassee Community College Police Department and the TCC Student Conduct office will present a Safety and Wellness Fair for students on Wednesday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Student Union ballrooms.

Representatives of local resources and services promoting mental health, physical safety and wellness will be on hand.

Judge to give keynote speech at probation officer graduation

TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT (CAMPUS NOTES)

Judge Nina Ashenafi Richardson of the 2nd Judicial Circuit of Florida will be the keynote speaker for the graduation ceremony of Correctional Probation Officer Basic Recruit Class 428 on Friday at 10 a.m. at the Florida Public Safety Institute Conference Center.

The Institute is part of Tallahassee Community College and is located on College Drive in Havana. Members of the public are welcome.

Richardson was the first African-American woman to head the Tallahassee Bar Association and the first African-American to lead the Tallahassee Women Lawyers.

Tallahassee Community College looking for approval of new bachelors program

MEGAN VAUGHN
WTXL

Tallahassee Community College is looking for approval to add a Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree program to their curriculum. The college says that 75% of nursing graduates who go to school in the area leave, and that they can help fill that gap.

According to a memo from TCC President Jim Murdaugh, the program would be offered to registered nurses who have an Associate in Science degree, and start-up costs would be approximately \$50,000 and are included in the annual budget.

Murdaugh says in the memo the program would be able to self-sustain after its implementation.

The college is looking to get approval from the Florida Department of Education program and are asking them to determine if offering the program fits in with the school's mission, to validate the program, to approve the curriculum, and to approve the budget.

According to agenda for the Florida Department of Education's Wednesday meeting, if the program is approved, it will help fill the gap that is left when nursing graduates from FAMU and FSU leave the region. TCC states in the agenda that only 25% of graduates from those schools stay in the area after graduation.

The school also says that Tallahassee Memorial HealthCare is working to meet its goal of becoming a magnet hospital which requires that 460 current staff members obtain a BSN and that 80% of new hires also have the degree.

If the program is implemented, students who participate could enjoy cost savings. The college says in the agenda that the cost for completing the degree would be \$12,930. The reported costs for students at other postsecondary schools in the region can range from \$18,214 to \$28,866.

TCC also claims in the agenda that they would need no new facilities or equipment for the program because their department of nursing is already fully equipped.

According to Murdaugh's memo, this is actually the second time the college has attempted to get approval for the program but was stopped in 2013 due to a legislative moratorium.

The program is up for approval on Wednesday and according to the agenda, the program is being recommended for approval by the Division of Florida Colleges.

Waging war on history

BRIAN D'HAESELEER
MIAMI HERALD (OP-ED)

For the past several decades congressional representatives and journalists across the United States have criticized history taught at the university level as “biased” and “liberal.”

For example, the Advanced Placement history exam has recently come under fire from congressional representatives who criticized the exam’s content as distorted and too negative. Rep. Dan Fisher, R-Oklahoma, claimed that the exam emphasizes what “is bad about America” and characterizes the United States as a “nation of exploiters and oppressors.”

Critics argued that the exam focused too much on ending slavery, the treatment of American Indians, confronting white supremacy and other “undesirable” aspects of U.S. history.

They would prefer that students focus only on heroic men, memorize dates and ignore anything remotely controversial. AP relented to the pressure and changed its curriculum.

Florida’s Legislature has gone further. Instead of waging an overt political battle with state universities, the Legislature simply revised its educational standards to prevent students from having to take history. Several years ago, the Legislature passed an educational bill that has radically altered undergraduate education.

This legislation reduced the number of social-science credit hours from 36 to 30. History has been dramatically affected by these new regulations.

It is entirely conceivable that undergraduate students in Florida can earn their bachelor’s degree without ever taking a history class.

The idea that it is a “liberal bias” that leads professors to teach students about some of the tragic missteps in America’s past is patently absurd. But it is even more ludicrous to suggest that it is subversive to teach students that America has made mistakes.

Yet, admitting that the United States has made errors is difficult for some to grapple with, much less apologize for. As George H.W. Bush famously declared, “I will never apologize for the United States of America ever — I don’t care what the facts are.”

Understanding our past failings will give students the tools that they will need to build a better society. The ironic truth in these accusations of “liberal bias” in historical education, then, is that the critics overtly seek to create a biased version of history. And, not to mention, an historically inaccurate one as well.

History offers students an important tool — the ability to think critically. Critical thinking enables people to analyze, interpret, process, and synthesize information from a variety of sources. It also helps promote independent thinking.

This might be disconcerting because our future graduate may raise questions about the state of our socioeconomic system or demand accountability.

However, critical thinking provides a valuable skill set for employers who want workers that can think independently and assess information from a variety of sources.

Students have nothing to gain from a curriculum that disguises us as a perfect nation, and we have nothing to profit by failing to tell a generation of students the truth about ourselves.

Perhaps even more importantly, critics should also be cognizant of the pitfalls of teaching a nationalistic and patriotic version of history. But our political elites do have something to gain — the maintenance of the status quo in which they hold power.

Brian D’Haeseleer teaches U.S. history at Tallahassee Community College.

After legislative delay, TCC gets approval for first bachelors degree program

LYNN HATTER

WFSU

Tallahassee Community College has received approval to start its first bachelor's degree program. The state education board signed off on a bachelor's degree-level nursing program at TCC Wednesday.

TCC must still get the program accredited but it could be operational by early next year.

"We had support all the way along from Florida State University, and Florida A&M University, along with the local community partners we have here like TMH and Capital Regional Medical Center," said TCC Spokesman Al Moran.

The program has been in the works for a while, but was delayed when the legislature placed a moratorium on new, four-year degree programs at community colleges. Both Florida A&M and Florida State University's also have nursing programs, but TCC hopes to serve current nurses who are going back to school to earn their degrees.

This would be TCC's first bachelor's degree program. Moran says whether the college offers more will depend on community need and demand. TCC was one of the last of the state's 22 community and state colleges that didn't offer any B.S. degrees.

Local firefighters help out West

NICOLE ZEMA
WAKULLA NEWS

Whether monitoring a prescribed burn in a local forest, or battling a raging wildfire 2,679 miles away in Washington State, local firefighters were ready to take action when the call came for help in the Pacific Northwest last week.

Firefighters Chad Slayton, Jerry Johnson, Wes Coleman, Danny Hobbs, David Hardy and Jeremiah Cates are on the ground now in Washington State battling one of dozens of wildfires that are ravaging the Pacific Northwest. They are members of Attack One Fire Management Services in Crawfordville – a private fire service contractor specializing in wildfire suppression, prescribed burns and related services.

Four of the crewmembers are local. Slayton is an EMT/firefighter and Johnson is a Captain – both work fulltime for Wakulla County Fire Rescue. Coleman and Hobbs are VFD members at the Crawfordville Station in Wakulla. Hardy and Cates live outside Wakulla.

The Los Angeles Times reported Sunday there are 12 uncontained fires in Washington covering more than 600,000 acres, according to the National Interagency Fire Center. Washington Gov. Jay Inslee's office said more than 200 homes had been destroyed and 12,000 homes remained threatened.

More resources, like Attack One, were sent to battle the blazes after the Obama administration declared a federal state of emergency in the area last week.

Lt. Kevin Carter, a firefighter with the Tallahassee Fire Department, founded Attack One in 1998. Attack One is part of the National Wildfire Suppression Association – a network of 10,000 trained firefighters and 6,000 pieces of equipment. He is currently the chairperson for the Southern Area (Region 8) Chapter of the NWSA. Carter said Attack One was the second private fire-contracting company to be established in the Southeast.

"If we get a call in Florida to go to Washington, that means there are no available resources to go from point A to point B," Carter said. The orders came down a chain of command to nearby resources before the Attack One trucks hit the road. Carter said there were requests for 160 type-six engines.

"There were nine contract engines in Florida that went

out, and two of those are ours," Carter said. When fire conditions exceed the capabilities of the agency resources due to limitations on equipment or maximum days worked, "We'll supplement their workforce on an as-needed basis," Carter said.

It took the local crew four days to travel across the U.S. in the two type-six engines.

"They had four days of travel – a 41-hour drive," Carter said. "They have a morning briefing, and they are running from 6 a.m. to 10 p.m. They are sleeping in tents, and have a catering truck providing meals. Their fire camp has 1,400 people."

Carter said he would probably be firefighting in The Evergreen State himself, but classes are beginning at the Florida Public Safety Institute where he is an instructor.

While Attack One members have jobs and busy lives, Carter said they are firefighters at heart, and are ready for action when a call comes in. While most deployments are regional, they go where they are called. Past deployments include Louisiana after Hurricane Katrina; debris recovery in Texas after the Columbia Space Shuttle disaster; and cleanup at Gulf Islands National Seashore following a hurricane. Carter said they have battled fires as far south as the Everglades, and as far north as British Columbia.

"This makes 26th state where we have been on assignment," Carter said. "Every year we have guys on fire assignment somewhere. We've been on the largest fires in the nation."

(NOTE: Article truncated for relevance to TCC.)

TCC gets state's approval for bachelor's in nursing degree

BYRON DOBSON

TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT

Tallahassee Community College is one step closer to offering a bachelor's degree in nursing following Wednesday's approval by the State Board of Education.

It will be the first bachelor's degree offered by TCC. The college offers an associate degree in nursing. TCC's two-year nursing program earned national accreditation in 2013.

"This program will help meet a critical need in our community," TCC President Jim Murdaugh said. "Our community partners have made it clear to us that they need more nurses with this higher level of education."

If the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools approves the program in December, TCC hopes to begin offering classes early in 2016.

The BSN proposal was initially approved by TCC's District Board of Trustees in October 2013 and had cleared nearly all state-level hurdles when the Florida Legislature imposed a moratorium on new bachelor's degree programs at the 28 Florida College System institutions in May 2014. The moratorium has since expired.

TCC trustees decided to pursue the degree after being approached by officials from Tallahassee Memorial HealthCare, Capital Regional Medical Center and Westminster Oaks.

Murdaugh said Florida State President John Thrasher and Florida A&M President Elmira Mangum endorsed TCC's application. Both universities offer bachelor's degrees in nursing, but many of those graduates leave the area.

Alice Nied, TCC's dean of healthcare professions, said the program will accept only students who are already licensed as registered nurses and hold an associate degree from an accredited R.N. program. Most of those who enroll will be working as nurses, so classes will be offered nights, weekends and online.

"We planned the curriculum with the professional nurse in mind," said Nied. "We understand that nursing is a 24/7/365 profession."

The program includes 30 credit hours of instruction in the nursing core. Every class will be offered within a calendar

year, so that students may choose to finish in a year or to take just one course at a time if that works better for them.

"We want this program to help working nurses move forward in their career path, so the goal was not to create barriers but to make it as nurse-friendly as possible," Nied said. "And we intend for this program to build the same fine reputation that our associate degree program already has."

The hospitals lobbied for the degree in nursing because this is becoming the standard in basic health care. Mark O'Bryant, CEO at TMH, also wants the hospital to receive the national magnet designation. Hospitals must have at least 80 percent of its nurses with the bachelor's in nursing degrees to achieve that designation.

Murdaugh said students can graduate now with an Associate of Science degree in nursing and test to become registered nurses. This program will allow those students to continue to get their bachelor's in nursing degree, which is considered a higher level of training.

Members of TCC's nursing faculty with doctorate degrees will be teaching the advanced classes.

TCC hopes to offer bachelor's in nursing degree by early 2016

WCTV

Tallahassee Community College will soon be offering its first bachelor's degree program.

The State Board of Education approved TCC's plans of adding a Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree program Wednesday.

TCC initially approved the program in October of 2013 but the Florida legislature imposed a moratorium on new bachelor's degree programs in May of 2014.

TCC President Jim Murdaugh says he was pleased to get the go ahead from the State Board of Education.

"This program will help meet a critical need in our community," said Murdaugh. "Our community partners have made it clear to us that they need more nurses with this higher level of education."

The program will only accept students who are already licensed as registered nurses and hold an associates degree from an accredited program.

Classes will be offered nights, weekends and online.

The program includes 30 credit hours of instruction in the nursing core, and every class will be offered within a calendar year, so that students may choose to finish in a year.

If the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools approves the program in December, TCC hopes to begin offering classes early in 2016.

County denies billboards on public land along I-10

BYRON SPIRES
HAVANA HERALD

There will be no new billboards on public land in Gadsden County.

The county commission unanimously turned down a text amendment to the Land Development Code (LDC) last week that would have opened the door for outdoor advertising (billboards) along Interstate 10.

Al Moran, Vice President of Communications and Marketing with Tallahassee Community College (TCC), had requested a text change to amend the Billboard Prohibition of the LDC to allow billboards on lands designated "Public" along I-10 as it is shown on the Gadsden County Future Land Use Map.

TCC wanted to put a billboard along the back side of their campus at the Florida Public Safety Institute that is adjacent to Interstate 10.

Moran stated TCC wanted to advertise their facilities on their proposed billboard.

Concerning the issue of billboards, Michael Dorien, a member of Gadsden United, a proactive group of concerned citizens, there have been no new signs in Gadsden County for the past 14 years.

His group, Dorien explained, worked with the county commission back then to stop any new signs from being erected in the county-controlled areas.

"We do not want any more signs," he told the commission.

Dorien added that of the 11 signs now on US 27, only one advertises a local entity.

Resident Larry Ganus made the same comment when he stated "I'm against the amendment."

Ganus stated that the amendment requested by TCC would open the door for other signs in the county and would end up with a whole line of billboards in the county.

County Attorney David Weiss told the commission that there were a number of state regulations that would have to be dealt with before there could be a billboard erected on the property.

Commissioner Sherrie Taylor stated in her vote that this was one case that the law was pretty clear on, adding that she appreciated what TCC has done for the county.

TCC plans safety, wellness event

GADSDEN COUNTY TIMES

Tallahassee Community College Police Department will host its inaugural Safety and Wellness Fair from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Wednesday, August 26, in the TCC Student Union ballroom.

The event is designed to promote personal safety and health for students while in college and living in the Tallahassee community. Representatives of various area resources and services promoting mental health, physical safety and wellness will attend.

"Part of the foundation for the success of our students is their health and safety while they pursue their education," said TCC Police Chief Chris Summers.

"Our community partners are eager to meet with our students to share information and be a part of their success at TCC."

TCCPD is hosting the event in partnership with the Student Conduct and Community Standards office, as well as Student Affairs. Expected community partners include the Tallahassee Police Department, Tallahassee Memorial Healthcare, Big Bend Hospice, Whole Foods and other organizations.

For information, contact Wyntress Patterson at (850) 201-8077 or pattersw@tcc.fl.edu.

Dozens of colleges to attend TCC College Fair

TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT (CAMPUS NOTES)

Leon County Schools will present its annual College Fair from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. today at Tallahassee Community College.

More than 40 colleges and universities from around the country have confirmed they will be in attendance and ready to speak with prospective students. The fair will be held in the TCC Student Union and Workforce Development buildings.

High school and current college students are welcome to attend. Several TCC programs and organizations will offer information as well.

For information, contact Teri Gimbel at collegefair@leonschools.net.

FEATURE STORY

From Life-Changer...to *Life-Saver*

By Kelsey Anderson, Tallahassee Family Magazine

C.S. Lewis once said, "You are never too old to set another goal or to dream a new dream." Perhaps Annie Dorough was channeling her own inner Lewis when she decided to enroll at Tallahassee Community College in the hopes of obtaining a nursing degree following a long 14-year hiatus.

To be clear, those years did not simply go to waste – Annie has spent the last decade managing an in-home childcare service while also raising three small children of her own. Originally interested in Childhood Education and Sports Journalism, she attributes her change of heart to a particularly frightening experience with one of the children she cared for during her years of being a childcare provider.

"I remained calm during the entire situation, and was able to give the child the proper care he needed," Annie said. "Though I'd always been interested in medicine, I wasn't brave enough to act on the notion. This experience gave me the reassurance I needed – I had the skills required to become a nurse."

Annie is excelling in TCC's Nursing Program, and is thoroughly enjoying her time on campus. She notes, "My first taste of college took place



PHOTOGRAPHY BY STACIA BEBBO PHOTOGRAPHY LLC

FEATURE STORY



just out of high school at a four-year university where students were just a number to the professors. They did not ask for your name, they simply required that you place your student ID number at the top of every paper. The academic atmosphere was very cold and unwelcoming. Here at TCC, it's the exact opposite – the professors go that extra mile as often as possible to ensure that you receive a good academic and social experience.”

Though Annie is happy with her decision to re-enter the classroom, it's easy to assume that some days are harder than others. She reveals that the most difficult part of juggling school and a family is finding time to meet her own needs.

“Finding time for me was definitely the greatest challenge I faced when deciding to go back to school; I later found that overcoming this obstacle simply took some careful planning and organization. Once I was able to plan my days successfully, I no longer needed to stress about the little things. I was finally able to make time for my kids, make time for me, and still have enough room in my schedule to put full effort into my studies,” she explains.

Annie and her family are new to the Tallahassee area, and they enjoy all things involving nature, especially hiking and fishing. “We've only been here a year, so we're discovering everything for the first time, which is really exciting. We're always looking for new places to fish! We also love

museums; the Museum of Florida History is our favorite – hands down.”

Annie hopes her story will inspire other local moms who are interested in obtaining a college degree to take that first step towards a new future. “Just jump in,” Annie explains. “It's not nearly as hard as you think it'll be. I've found that college is a lot easier in my 30's than it was when I was a teenager.” Although she is a Gator fan, Annie plans on attending Florida State University to obtain her Doctorate degree and ultimately become a Nurse Practitioner. She looks forward to her future career in medicine and hopes that her hard work and determination will rub off on her little ones. “The sweetest things in life are the ones worth working for,” she says. We wish Annie and her wonderful family the best of luck in all of their future endeavors.

IT'S TIME TO PURSUE YOUR DREAMS

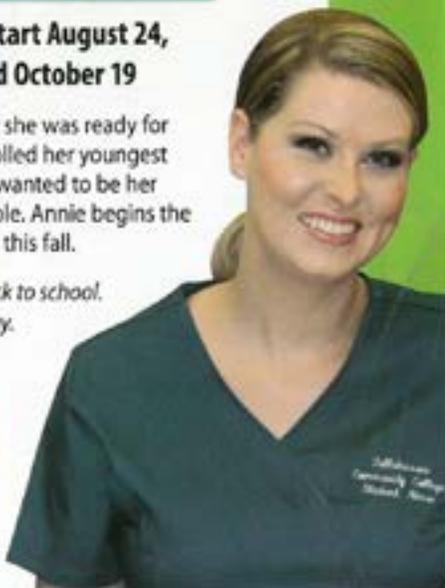
**TCC Fall sessions start August 24,
September 28 and October 19**

Annie Dorough knew she was ready for college after she enrolled her youngest in kindergarten. She wanted to be her children's best example. Annie begins the TCC Nursing Program this fall.

*It's your turn to go back to school.
Take the first step today.*



GOTOTCC.COM



Man posing as Uber driver arrested in abduction attempt

KARL ETTERS

TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT

A 35-year-old man posing as an Uber driver was arrested Monday after the Aug. 30 attempted abduction of a 19-year-old Tallahassee Community College student.

Antonio D. Warren was arrested by the Florida State University Police Department after they say he picked up the woman outside of a university dorm Gilchrist Hall Sunday morning around 1 a.m and then attempted to kidnap her.

Warren is charged with kidnapping with intent to commit a felony, a first-degree felony. He is being held at the Leon County Jail on \$15,000 bond.

FSUPD Chief David Perry gave details of the incident and subsequent arrest at a press conference on campus Tuesday morning.

According to Perry, the woman was waiting outside the residence hall when Warren pulled up in a sedan and indicated he was a driver for the ride sharing service Uber. She asked to be taken to Player's Club Apartments at 222 Ocala Road.

Investigators later determined Warren was not a Uber driver and had no affiliation with the company.

She entered the car but noticed as it wove through Tallahassee that the driver was taking the wrong route to her stated destination.

Court records say Warren stopped at another apartment complex and a gas station before exposing himself to the passenger and demanding sexual favors.

The woman refused and got out of the car at the apartment complex before Warren gave chase and grabbed her arm and buttocks.

The woman was able to pick Warren out of a photo lineup, naming him as her assailant. During a voluntary interview with investigators, he made statements that corroborated the woman's account of the incident and he was arrested.

Sunday's incident has not been connected to a string of attempted abductions in Tallahassee over the past few months, Perry said.

State-by-state: Florida

News from across the USA

USA TODAY (STATE-BY-STATE)

A 35-year-old man posing as an Uber driver was arrested on kidnapping charges after the August 30 attempted abduction of a 19-year-old Tallahassee Community College student, the Tallahassee Democrat reported.

WEI sells first batch of oysters

NICOLE ZEMA
WAKULLA NEWS

The taste of success can be described as fresh and salty – good with a squeeze of lemon.

The Wakulla Environmental Institute's Oyster Aquaculture program made history Aug. 26 as it sold its first batch of Alligator Harbor oysters.

An Apalachicola-based wholesaler called 13 Mile Seafood Market bought 1,300 oysters, with a handshake commitment to buy a total of 5,000 within the next few weeks.

WEI Executive Director Bob Ballard was thrilled about the sale, and the price, which was more than originally expected – 60 cents per oyster.

"We anticipated 25 cents, this is unheard of," Ballard said. "Nobody expected that. They love them, and said we have to have them. They are near perfect, saltier than any oyster they tasted. We hope that 60 cents will be sustainable. It was a fantastic day. We are very excited."

Tallahassee Community College's WEI implemented the oyster-growing program last year, which provides oyster-farming equipment to its students. While program participation is free, students work long hours at the oyster leases. Students can keep the equipment, and the first few oyster sales are intended to reimburse WEI's equipment cost. The overall intention of the program is to equip students with the skills and tools they need to create their own oyster farming businesses, and to boost the local economy.

The \$780 check was made out to Sharon Fitzgerald, who owns the oyster lease at Alligator Harbor where WEI started the program. Fitzgerald then wrote a check to the TCC Foundation to go toward student loans for the oyster cages.

"It was really refreshing after everything we've been through," Fitzgerald said. "We are looking forward to the next sale. It's very encouraging we got that price, and it would be even better to hold on to that price. We're trying to grow a quality product. It's good to see all the efforts will pay off – it's a lot of hard work to do this."

Fitzgerald is part of four generations in the seafood business. Her father harvested seafood, and now

Fitzgerald is grooming her own daughter, Jessica Scarborough, and grandson for the business. One day Scarborough will own Fitzgerald's business, called Playing Hooky Enterprises.

"It's nice to already have the stuff you need to be a prepared oyster farmer," Fitzgerald said.

Ballard said if the price stays at 60 cents, the students' equipment can be paid off in the next three months.

"All the equipment is theirs, the oysters are theirs, and it's off to the races with new industry," Ballard said.

The next step is getting seafood processors and distributors to Wakulla County, and continuing a partnership with Wakulla High School's technical programs to build a state-of-the-art oyster tumbler.

Ballard said, "Any way we can engage Wakulla in this new industry, that's what excites us."

TCC gets state's nod for BS nursing degree

TALLAHASSEE – Tallahassee Community College received approval from the State Board of Education last week to offer a Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree program.

The BSN program will be the first bachelor's degree program offered by TCC, and it will be specifically designed to meet the needs of working nurses. The College already offers an associate degree in nursing.

The BSN proposal was initially approved by TCC's District Board of Trustees in October 2013 and had cleared nearly all state-level hurdles when the Florida Legislature imposed a moratorium on new bachelor's degree programs at the 28 Florida College System institutions in May 2014.

At that time, several community leaders expressed their disappointment that the TCC proposal was put on hold, including Mark O'Bryant, president and CEO of Tallahassee Memorial HealthCare, and State Senator Bill Montford, who both cited the short-

age of nurses with four-year degrees in the region's healthcare facilities.

TCC President Jim Murdaugh was pleased to get last week's go ahead from the State Board of Education, as was TMH's Mark O'Bryant, whose support of the program as an employer of future graduates was very well received by board members.

"This program will help meet a critical need in our community," said Murdaugh. "Our community partners have made it clear to us that they need more nurses with this higher level of education."

The College's decision to pursue the BSN degree program came after an initial request from O'Bryant that was subsequently enthusiastically endorsed by Capital Regional Medical Center and Westminster Oaks retirement community. TCC's proposal also had the support of Florida State University and Florida A&M University.

According to Alice Nied, TCC's dean of

healthcare professions, the program will accept only students who are already licensed as registered nurses and hold an associate degree from an accredited R.N. program. Most of those who enroll will already be working as nurses, so classes will be offered nights, weekends and online.

"We planned the curriculum with the professional nurse in mind," said Nied. "We understand that nursing is a 24/7/365 profession."

The program includes 30 credit hours of instruction in the nursing core, and every class will be offered within a calendar year, so that students may choose to finish in a year or to take just one course at a time if that works better for them.

"We want this program to help working nurses move forward in their career path, so the goal was not to create barriers but to make it as nurse-friendly as possible," Nied said. "And we intend for this program to build the same fine reputation that our associate degree program already has."

TCC's two-year nursing program earned national accreditation in 2013, and Nied said that TCC will pursue accreditation for the bachelor's degree program as soon as possible.

If the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools approves the program in December, TCC hopes to begin offering classes early in 2016.

GADSDEN COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING & PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

The Gadsden County Planning Commission will hold a regularly scheduled meeting on **Thursday, September 17, 2015, at 6:00 p.m.** in the Board of County Commission Chambers located at 7 East Jefferson Street, Quincy, FL. The proposed agenda will include the following public hearings:

TCC to offer Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree program

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For information, contact Al Moran at 216-905-8512 or morana@tcc.fl.edu.

TCC Alumni and Friends heading to Ireland

TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT (CAMPUS NOTES)

Tallahassee Community College's newly formed Alumni and Friends Association is taking off across the pond for Spring Break.

The eight-day Irish Splendor tour includes stays in Dublin, Cong and Killarney, and visits to the Cliffs of Moher, Dingle Peninsula and the Blarney Stone. Additional highlights include a whiskey tasting, a castle tour and a visit to St. Patrick's Cathedral, among others.

The cost of the tour varies from \$3,169 to \$3,599, but TCC Alumni & Friends can earn an additional discount and a portion of their fee goes back to TCC. Round-trip airfare from Tallahassee to Dublin is included in the price, along with air taxes and fees, hotel transfers and 10 meals.

For information, contact Ysonde Jensen at (850) 201-6065 or jenseny@tcc.fl.edu.

Florida Public Safety Institute to host bloodhound seminar

TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT (CAMPUS NOTES)

The Florida Public Safety Institute, a division of Tallahassee Community College, will conduct its eighth Annual Bloodhound Scent Tracking Seminar September 13-18.

The institute works in conjunction with The Jimmy Ryce Center to train law enforcement officers and their bloodhounds on how to bring missing children home. The seminar will include classroom training as well as training in the field during the day and evening.

In addition, the handlers and their canines will be in attendance at the 2015 Florida Missing Children's Day held at the Capitol on Monday, Sept. 14.

For information, contact Stephanie White at (850) 201-7005 or whites@tcc.fl.edu.

Flakka training draws 500 to North Florida

JIM ASH
WFSU

With South Florida emergency rooms overflowing and body counts rising, the only way to halt an epidemic of the designer drug Flakka is education and community outreach.

That's the discouraging message Broward County Sheriff's officials brought Wednesday to the Florida Public Safety Institute in Havana.

Five hundred police officers, sheriff's deputies and EMTs, wearing the uniforms of more than 100 agencies, shifted in their seats as Broward Sheriff's Detective William Schwartz kicked off the daylong Flakka seminar.

"These are drugs today, guys...PHO, shatter, butter, research chemicals, bath salts and spice. I mean, nothing that we're used to. Nothing that we would be expecting to see as the biggest drugs of abuse in Broward County for sure, but also throughout the country, and I'll show you..."

Somewhere in that soup is Alpha PVP, or "Flakka," a white powder that sent 40 Broward County victims to the morgue in the past 8 months and others running paranoid and naked down the streets.

Broward Sheriff's executive director David Scharf:

"The internal organs are actually melting as a result of this. The body is not able to flush these toxins out sufficiently, and what's happening is kidneys are failing and organs are failing and people are dying as a result of that."

At certain doses, Flakka creates a crystal meth like high and can be more addicting than cocaine, experts say. But the line between euphoria and so-called "excited delirium" is razor thin.

Excited delirium has caused victims to throw rocks through police department windows and impale themselves on fences. Adrenaline dumps give them super human strength. Untrained police could make a tragic mistake, Scharf says.

"So the signs that we know and we see are going to be important for us to impart on these folks so that they don't make a mistake and shoot somebody."

Gadsden County Sheriff Morris Young says he invited his Broward counterparts to North Florida because he thinks the plague is spreading. Young says two deaths have been attributed to Flakka in Gadsden since June and emergency medical personnel are fielding five calls a day.

In South Georgia, Grady County Sheriff Harry Young says flakka is just beginning to rear its head. He says it's causing problems at the jail.

"It seems like it's worse, really, as far as the attitude people have when they take this drug. It's hard to control them. Even when they come to jail. We have to put them aside, put them separate, because they're more violent."

Leon County Sheriff's Sergeant Grady Jordan, a narcotics officer, says his unit has already arrested flakka dealers in drug stings. He says what's happening in Broward worried him enough to come to the seminar.

"Hopefully with this type of training and education of our citizenry, we won't get to that level."

The good news, according to Broward County Sheriff's lieutenant Ozzie Tianga is that the trend might be slowing. The four hospitals tracking flakka-related admissions in Broward County report the number of daily admissions has fallen – from 11 to 9.

Tallahassee Community College selected to strengthen pathways leading to middle-skill retail careers

CAPITAL SOUP

Tallahassee Community College is one of four community colleges nationwide selected to receive a \$120,000 grant to strengthen their short-term middle-skill retail career pathway.

The pathway will prepare students to pursue middle-skill retail careers in the Tallahassee region within six months or less. Middle-skill jobs require more than secondary school but less than a bachelor's degree. Students may also choose to pursue the Associate of Science in Business degree program.

The Achieving the Dream Retail Pathways Initiative, funded by the Walmart Foundation, also aims to support TCC and other participating colleges in developing strong partnerships with local retail employers so graduates can successfully enter the job market. This is the first time these funds have been offered to address retail career pathways.

"We are proud to be a recipient of this grant. Our hope is that this initiative will create employment and career opportunities for students and meet the growing needs of regional employers," said Kimberly Moore, TCC vice president for workforce development. "In addition to classroom instruction, we are excited to incorporate career training, volunteer and internship opportunities, and a 'retail incubator' component that will allow select students to run businesses after they have earned their credentials. These experiences will help students achieve their goals of job security and economic prosperity through pursuing careers at retailers in Tallahassee and beyond."

Moore added that Jay Revell, executive director of the Downtown Improvement Authority, will serve as TCC's strategic partner with regard to the incubator initiative.

Students and individuals already in the retail industry can also use the stackable retail credentials as stepping-stones to an associate's degree or other postsecondary credentials.

The initiative was created to address the need for clearly defined and readily accessible pathways to middle skill retail careers throughout the country. As part of the grant, TCC will receive technical assistance through the ATD Retail Pathways Support Team.

Individuals who are interested in entering the retail pathway at TCC and employers interested in becoming partners in the initiative are encouraged to contact the Division of Workforce Development at (850) 201-9760 or workforce@tcc.fl.edu. Additional information is online at www.TCCCareersinRetail.com.

Achieving the Dream, Inc. is a national nonprofit dedicated to helping more community college students, particularly low-income students and students of color, stay in school and earn a college certificate or degree. Evidence-based, student-centered, and built on the values of equity and excellence, Achieving the Dream is closing achievement gaps and accelerating student success nationwide by guiding evidence-based institutional improvement, leading policy change, generating knowledge and engaging the public.

Conceived in 2004 by Lumina Foundation and seven founding partner organizations, Achieving the Dream is today leading the most comprehensive nongovernmental reform network for student success in higher education history. With over 200 institutions, more than 100 coaches and advisors, and 15 state policy teams – working throughout 34 states and the District of Columbia – the Achieving the Dream National Reform Network helps nearly 4 million community college students have a better chance of realizing greater economic opportunity and achieving their dreams.

For information, contact Lisa Powell at (850) 201-8760 or powelll@tcc.fl.edu.

Florida Lottery and Tallahassee Community College honor Bright Futures scholarship recipients with ice cream social

CAPITAL SOUP

The Florida Lottery and Tallahassee Community College (TCC) today celebrated Bright Futures scholarship recipients at an event attended by Lottery Interim Secretary Tom Delacenserie and TCC President Dr. Jim Murdaugh. More than \$23.4 million of Florida Lottery contributions have directly benefited TCC Bright Futures students.

Interim Secretary Delacenserie and Dr. Murdaugh had the opportunity to interact with students one-on-one to discuss their academic goals and future plans in a laid-back setting with other TCC faculty and Lottery staff. Students enjoyed music, giveaways and ice cream donated by Florida Lottery corporate retailer, Winn-Dixie.

Bright Futures scholarship recipients weren't the only ones honored at today's ice cream social; Leon County's 2016 Teacher of the Year, Ms. Betsy Penn was also recognized at today's event as part of the Florida Lottery's Everyday Heroes Campaign which recognizes educators and students who are making a difference.

"We are proud of the opportunities made possible for Florida's students as a direct result of Lottery contributions to the Educational Enhancement Trust Fund," said Interim Secretary Delacenserie. "We are also extremely proud of all of the wonderful educators in Florida who are dedicated to helping Florida students succeed."

Recognized as one of the most efficient lotteries in the nation, the Florida Lottery has remained a strong partner in helping generate additional funds for public education for the past 27 years. Lottery contributions have made an impact with more than \$1 billion being transferred annually to the EETF for the past 13 consecutive years, resulting in a total contribution of more than \$28 billion. Florida Lottery contributions represent approximately six percent of the state's total education budget.

ABOUT THE FLORIDA LOTTERY

The Florida Lottery is responsible for contributing more than \$28 billion to education and sending more than 700,000 students to college through the Bright Futures Scholarship Program. The Florida Lottery reinvests 97 percent of its revenue back into Florida's economy through prize payouts, commissions to more than 13,000 Florida retailers and transfers to education. Since 1988, Florida Lottery games have paid more than \$48.5 billion in prizes and made more than 1,800 people millionaires. For more information, please visit www.flalottery.com.

Bills to allow guns on university campuses move forward

BRENDAN FARRINGTON (AP)
TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT

Republican lawmakers fighting to give licensed gun owners the right to carry on state universities earned their first two victories Wednesday as House and Senate committees approved bills that would allow permitted students to take their guns to class.

The issue is being hotly debated, as it has in at least three previous years when bills died. That includes earlier this year in the wake of a shooting spree at Florida State University that left three people injured and the gunman dead. Supporters say schools would be safer and people with concealed weapons permits shouldn't be denied their constitutional rights to protect themselves, while opponents said the often stressful environment of universities is not the right place to allow guns.

"Campuses are places in which we stress students. We put them in situations in which they are provoked with conversations that might be uncomfortable for them, because that's part of the learning process," Tallahassee Community College President Jim Murdaugh told the Senate Criminal Justice Committee. "I cannot see a positive outcome that's associated with creating an atmosphere that may make people uncomfortable, that may in fact be provocative, when one of those people is armed."

Murdaugh, a former sheriff's deputy, said all 28 college presidents in the state system are opposed to the bill, as are campus police chiefs and the association representing college faculty.

But Florida State University criminology professor Gary Kleck spoke in favor of the bill, saying that research shows that extremely few people who have concealed weapons permit holders commit crimes with guns, but they are more successful than non-gun owners in protecting life and property.

"The risk of a carry permit holder doing gun violence is not zero, but it's awfully close to zero. In fact they're an extraordinarily law-abiding group of people, which is hardly surprising since you have to pass a background check in order to get the permit," Kleck said. "Those carry permit holders have a reason for carrying — it's for self-protection for the sake of avoiding injury and retaining property."

In 2011, a similar bill died after the emotional testimony of a father whose daughter was killed during an accidental shooting at a Florida State University. But Marion Hammer, a lobbyist for the National Rifle Association, pointed out that the death happened at an off-campus fraternity where people were drinking.

"If that young woman had been hit and killed on campus by a drunk driver, would those same people want to ban motorized vehicles on campus? There are a lot of car accidents on campus all the time, but nobody wants to ban cars. There are not a lot of gun accidents on campus, but there are a lot of crimes," Hammer told the House Criminal Justice Subcommittee.

The Senate committee approved the bill (SB 68) on a 3-2 vote.

TCC encouraging entrepreneurship among students

ABBIE MAURER

WTVL

Tallahassee Community College (TCC) President Dr. Jim Murdaugh, has made a pledge to take on a bigger role in working to stimulate economic development in the area.

The 'Presidents for Entrepreneurship Pledge' is a way for community colleges to commit their schools to advance entrepreneurship, according to the National Association of Community College Entrepreneurship.

The organization created the pledge as a way to stimulate lagging economies that are still working to recover from the recession.

More than 200 community colleges throughout the country have signed the pledge.

After taking the pledge, Dr. Murdaugh said he thinks it is a unique way to give students the tools they need to succeed.

'The struggle is real' regarding economic security for women, girls

TAMARYN WATERS

TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT

The women and girls most in need were absent from Thursday's "Bridges to Economic Success" panel luncheon, yet their concerns — more pay, access to tools and economic freedom — dominated discussions.

"These are individuals who are not likely to be in the room with us today," said Kim Moore, one of four panelists who spoke to more than 100 women, all influential in government and social and private sectors.

She was referring to single mothers working two and three jobs and low-wage earners. Moore, vice president for workforce development at Tallahassee Community College, stressed that non-traditional approaches should be explored.

Some of the panel discussion focused on challenges faced by working mothers and successful initiatives to foster more education and awareness, especially for budding entrepreneurs.

Who else was absent? Men, with the exception of the moderator's husband.

That, some noted, raises questions about how these issues can be tackled if men, the major custodians of power, money and change, aren't part of the conversation.

"What does that say about the value this community places on women?," said Kelly Otte, executive director for the PACE Center for Girls in Tallahassee.

"We're not going to be anywhere unless we have a diverse group that's really committed to making it better."

The Tallahassee/Leon County Commission on the Status of Women and Girls hosted the panel discussion, it's first.

Other panelists included Sue Dick, president and CEO of the Greater Tallahassee Chamber of Commerce; Robin Hassler Thompson, an attorney specializing in human rights and public policy; and Shacafrica "Chef Shac" Simmons, owner of Chef Shac LLC and founder of the "Sensory Experience."

Attendees shared ideas on addressing challenges during breakout conversations. One idea included each woman partnering with another woman in the need.

The panel was an opportunity for brainstorming practical approaches to helping women and girls, who represent 52 percent of Leon County's population — 22 percent of them live in poverty. Through its ongoing research, the 4-year-old commission concluded economic security is rooted in the most perilous factors affecting local women and girls.

"The struggle is real," said Jessica Lowe-Minor, commission chairman and moderator.

"If we're able to ensure that the women in our community have strong economic security, that will have a massive impact on all of the other things we are seeing."

She said there's vigorous community discussions on the local economy and entrepreneurship. Those conversations need to include women and girls, she said, adding they should have full representation in everyone's picture of a robust local economy.

Make a Difference

*You have the education and work expertise.
It's your turn to pay it forward.*

Tallahassee Community College is looking for qualified adjunct faculty to teach college-level courses. Positions are available in several subject areas including math and English.



You must have a master's degree with graduate semester hours in the subject area.

To find out more about qualifications and current openings, visit **www.TCC.fl.edu/Adjunct** or call **(850) 201-8510**

TCC is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action/E-Verify Employer



Guaranteed admission to Florida A&M University if you stay on track and meet all transfer requirements as you complete your Associate in Arts degree program at Tallahassee Community College.

TCC2FAMU is an affordable program. Tuition at TCC is about half the cost of tuition at a state university, and many scholarships are available.

Plus, graduate from TCC with a 2.5 GPA or higher and you are guaranteed a scholarship at FAMU.

TCC is the #1 transfer school to FAMU—almost 60 percent of FAMU's transfer students are TCC alums.

Find out more and sign up today
www.tcc.fl.edu/TCC2FAMU