

# TALLAHASSEE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

*In the News*

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February 13 - March 18, 2016

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## *In the News*



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# TALLAHASSEE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

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- February 16 - WTXL - WEI officially opens doors on new building
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- February 23 - WCTV - Moore Veterans Center dedicated, new program to kick off
- March 1 - WTXL - TCC professor Rick Murgo provides Election 2016 political commentary
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- March 3 - WCTV - FPSI hosts animal cruelty training seminar for law enforcement
- March 4 - WCTV - TCC Foundation hosts Cleaver and Cork event at Goodwood
- March 7 - WTXL - TCC men's basketball season ends with loss in state title game
- March 11 - WTXL - Women's History Month events to be held through TCC
- March 15 - WTLH - Proposed Florida budget would grant \$250,000 to WEI
- March 15 - WCTV/WTXL - Rick Murgo discusses Florida presidential primary results

## Olson's hot start mirrors team's success

### Sophomore lefty allowed only 4 hits in 14 innings

JORDAN CULVER

TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT

Tallahassee Community College's baseball team is off to a strong start, and sophomore pitcher Craig Olson can take at least some of the credit.

Olson, a lefty out of Cardinal Gibbons High in Wilton Manors, Fla., pitched two complete-game gems to start his sophomore season. He just missed a no-hitter in TCC's 4-0 win over NJCAA No. 5 Chattahoochee Valley (Ala.).

He followed that performance up with a two-hitter against East Georgia State. So far this season, Olson has pitched 14 innings and given up just four hits and no runs.

Olson's prowess at the mound earned him regional and national Pitcher of the Week nods. He was named the NJCAA Region 8 Pitcher of the Week on Tuesday, then Thursday learned he was OC Sports' national pitchers of the week.

Not bad for a player who didn't have any college baseball scholarship offers coming out of high school.

"I'm at a loss for words," Olson said. "I'm very humbled. It's unbelievable. I'm not even supposed to be playing college baseball right now — I'm just a walk-on. I was in the gym when I found out. I saw (TCC AD) Rob Chaney mentioned me in a tweet."

He added, "Out of high school, I didn't have any offers or any looks. I was going to attend Florida State and I switched over to try and walk on at TCC."

The Eagles are 11-1 overall and sit on top of the Region 8 Coaches' Poll. The group started the season unranked and had to battle against some of the top teams in JUCO baseball early on. The team's only loss was against Region 8 No. 5 Santa Fe on the road on Monday.

TCC continued its hot start with a 7-6 win over Shelton State Community on Friday. Olson returns to the mound at 2 p.m. today in the second game of the Eagles' three-game weekend series with Shelton State.

It's definitely a better start than some predicted, and it's a good start for head coach Mike McLeod. He said he expected the team to hit its stride midway through the season.

"What you hope is the freshman turn into sophomores about halfway through the year," McLeod said in a preview interview with the Tallahassee Democrat.

"You've got to start having the confidence about halfway through the year or its going to be a struggle.

"Hopefully after about 30-something games they'll be ready to attack the Panhandle."

Olson and the Eagles are 12 games in and look ready to take on the best Region 8 — including the Panhandle Conference — has to offer.

The Eagles are No. 2 in Region 8 in team ERA (2.52) and are also second in the region with 83 strikeouts.

"I couldn't do it without my team," Olson said. "It's not just me. There are eight other guys who take the field with me and I'm humbled to be a part of this. We're having a great year so far and hopefully we'll keep it going."

Olson said the team's winning mentality started early on.

"I think it started in the fall," Olson said. "We had early morning workouts and that's something new when compared to last year. We come ready to play and ready to work every day. It's showing on the field and we're having a great time."

## Sittig juggled TCC, work for League

TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT (50 FOR 50)

As executive director of the Florida League of Cities, Michael Sittig makes an impact not only on Tallahassee, but also on the more than 400 municipalities throughout Florida that his organization represents.

He directs the League's programs, services and legislative affairs from its headquarters in the Citizen Center on Kleman Plaza in downtown Tallahassee. Spearheading the planning and construction of the six-story building, dedicated in 1998, is one of Sittig's many challenging accomplishments and one that helped shaped Tallahassee's current cityscape.

Sittig was born in Italy, where his father, Ray, was stationed during the Korean War. The family moved to Jacksonville in 1959. When Ray Sittig, who himself worked at The League for 35 years, was tasked with moving the organization to Tallahassee in 1971, the family followed. The younger Sittig became a League employee fresh out of high school. He has served in nearly every position at the 94-year-old association, from janitor and errand boy, to the top executive post he has held since 1995. While working full-time, he also attended classes at Tallahassee Community College from 1972 to 1976.

"My dad wasn't going to deprive me of the right of paying for my own education," said Sittig. "TCC came along at the right time in my life when I wanted to go to school. It was within driving distance, affordable and I could go at night."

Sittig credits TCC for helping him develop skills that remain critical to his success. Most specifically, he remembers Judy Jolly, who taught speech and journalism. "She influenced me and taught me the subject matter for my career," he said.

He covered his first legislative issue at the Capitol as a reporter for the TCC campus newspaper, The Talon. "It was lowering the drinking age to 18 and all of my buddies were interested in it," he said. It passed.

Sittig continued his education at Florida State University, studying government and business. He has the distinction of being awarded an Associate in Arts from TCC and a Bachelor of Science from FSU on the very same day. Sittig's five siblings also received degrees from TCC.

"I'm proud to have gone to a school that has maintained its great reputation all of these years and contributed so much," said Sittig.

## TCC to host ribbon cutting for Environmental Institute

TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT (CAMPUS NOTES)

Members of the public can get a close-up look at the new Wakulla Environmental Institute at a ribbon-cutting event at 3:45 p.m. Monday. Attendees may tour the building and learn about its environmentally-friendly features, taste oysters raised by WEI students, and enjoy brief speeches by Florida Sen. Bill Montford and others.

The WEI is part of Tallahassee Community College and is expected to bring together education, conservation and recreation in a way that stimulates economic development in Wakulla County. The Green Guide Certification program will be based at WEI, as well programs in environmental science technology, oyster farming, forest and land conservation, hospitality and ecotourism management, and environmental drone operations. The executive director of WEI is Bob Ballard.

The WEI is located at 170 Preservation Way in Crawfordville, about 3.1 miles south of the TCC Wakulla Center, which is housed in the Centennial Bank Building on Crawfordville Highway. For information, contact Al Moran at [morana@tcc.fl.edu](mailto:morana@tcc.fl.edu) or (850) 201-6079.

## African-American History Month events set for TCC

TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT (CAMPUS NOTES)

Tallahassee Community College will commemorate African-American History Month with special events throughout February.

On Tuesday, the Florida Public Safety Institute will host the Ninth Annual Black History Month Breakfast at 8:30 a.m., with a media meet-and-greet scheduled for 8 a.m. The theme for this year's breakfast is "Sites of African-American Memories in Public Safety." Breakfast will be held at the FPSI Conference Center.

TCC will host the African-American History Health Fair on Friday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the Student Union Ballroom on the College's main campus. The fair will cover a variety of topics to raise awareness and encourage healthy living habits.

To round out the month, the African-American History Month Committee will present the annual Soul Food Fest and Gospel Extravaganza Saturday, February 27, at 5 p.m. in the Student Union Ballroom.

All events are free to attend and open to the public and media. For information, contact Vivian Pope at (850) 201-9649 or [popev@tcc.fl.edu](mailto:popev@tcc.fl.edu), or Gregory Williams at (850) 201-8361 or [williagr@tcc.fl.edu](mailto:williagr@tcc.fl.edu).

## Wakulla family welcomes new TCC center with major gift

BYRON DOBSON

TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT

Tallahassee Community College President Jim Murdaugh, trustees and supporters celebrated the opening of the Wakulla Environmental Institute Monday, capping nearly four years of planning.

And, during the ceremony, Susan Payne Turner, a Crawfordville resident and executive vice president of Prime Meridian Bank, announced the donation of the William M. and Irene C. Payne Family Gift to the TCC Foundation.

Turner wouldn't specify the amount of the donation, but Heather Mitchell, TCC's vice president for resource development and executive director of the TCC Foundation, described it as "a significant gift."

"It's the first gift to the Wakulla Environmental Institute and it will be used to support scholarships and student programs," a beaming Mitchell said.

Turner, who serves on the TCC Foundation board, said her family goes back generations in Wakulla County. She, along with her mother and two brothers, all graduated from TCC before furthering their education elsewhere.

"This is a way to give back because so many paved the way for us and others," Turner said. "It's one of the biggest things to happen in Wakulla County for a long time."

More than 350 people, including state Sen. Bill Montford, attended the ribbon-cutting ceremony and reception at the WEI. The 9,350-square-foot center is located at 170 Preservation Way in Crawfordville, three miles south of the TCC Wakulla Center, which will continue to be housed inside the Centennial Bank Building.

The institute cost \$6 million, with \$4.5 million coming from the Florida Legislature and \$1.5 million from the federal government. It includes two classrooms, a laboratory equipped with water, electricity and propane at each table and a prep area for professors, along with administrative offices.

"A lot of planning took place before we could do anything," Murdaugh said above the din of people sampling fresh oysters harvested from the college's oyster cultivating program and enjoying bluegrass tunes.

Murdaugh said the vision of the center was to develop an academic program to take advantage of Wakulla's natural attractions and contribute to its economic health.

"We are amazed at the support of the people in this community and their philanthropy to the extent they want to use their philanthropy to grow this institution."

Executive Director Bob Ballard said in addition to the oyster aquaculture program, WEI offers two courses in environmental drone technology, as well as classes in environmental science technology and becoming a Green Guide. Future programs include forest and land management, hospitality, ecotourism and recreation.

## Finalists for TCC vice president post in town this week

### College hires FSU graduate for dean's position

BYRON DOBSON

TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT

Tracy Woodard-Meyers, a professor and director of the Women's and Gender Studies Program at Valdosta State University, has been named dean of Communications and Humanities at Tallahassee Community College.

In other administrative developments, this week TCC is interviewing four finalists for vice president for student affairs.

Woodard-Meyers, who also is a professor in the Department of Sociology, Anthropology and Criminal Justice at Valdosta, has served as Faculty Senate president and has extensive experience in core curriculum and assessment and budget planning.

"There were several good candidates, so the choice was not an easy one," Provost Feleccia Moore-Davis said. "But I believe that Dr. Woodard-Meyers has the passion, ability and skill to move the division forward with the great work already being done."

Woodard-Meyers holds a doctorate in human sciences (major, family relations) from Florida State University, as well as master's and bachelor's degrees from FSU in home and family life. She begins in May. Woodward-Meyers succeeds Dean Marge Banocy-Payne who retired at the end of January.

The four finalists interviewing for vice president for student affairs this week are:

Ricky Shabazz, vice president of student services, San Bernardino Valley College.

Orinthia Montague, vice president of student affairs and chief diversity officer, Normandale Community College, Bloomington, Minnesota.

Sheri Rowland, assistant provost for student success, Middle Georgia State University.

Jerry Racioppi, dean of students and enrollment services, Central Community College, Grand Island, Nebraska.

## Local TCC Trustees travel to Washington, D.C. for summit



Gadsden County representatives on the TCC Trustee Board, Randy Pople (left) and Eugene Lamb are shown with Florida Congresswoman Gwen Graham.

**By Byron Spires,  
Herald Editor**

Tallahassee Community College Trustees and President Jim Murdaugh traveled to Washington last week to participate in the National Legislative Summit hosted by the Association of Community College Trustees.

While in Washington, the group also met with Florida Congressional and Senate members to advocate on behalf of the college.

The trustees and president met with Florida Congresswoman Gwen Graham and Florida Senator Bill Nelson.

## TCC part-time job fair is March 2nd

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. – Tallahassee Community College will host its Spring Part-Time Job Fair on March 2 from 9 a.m. to noon in the TCC Student Union Ballroom. The job fair will connect individuals searching for part-time jobs and internships with area companies looking to fill open positions. This event is not limited to TCC students. FSU and FAMU students and all members of the community are invited to attend. More than 280 people attended the Part-Time Job Fair last spring.

Job seekers do not have to pre-register for this event. Business casual dress is required, and attendees should bring copies of their resume.

Free parking is available for all attendees.

For information and a list of employers, visit [www.tccfuturelink.com/events](http://www.tccfuturelink.com/events) or call (850) 201-9970.

## “Building a dream”

### TCC’s Wakulla Environmental Institute is now open

NICOLE ZEMA  
WAKULLA NEWS

Wonderful things happen when vision meets possibility.

The official opening of Wakulla Environmental Institute was celebrated on Feb. 15, as upwards of 350 people packed into the new facility to see, and taste, what Tallahassee Community College’s latest enterprise has to offer. The campus is a learning center for students seeking environmental careers, and will also serve as a trail head for the Capital City to the Sea Trails loop.

WEI Executive Director Bob Ballard was all smiles as guests gushed over the building’s unique aesthetic touches, energy independence and nostalgic Florida Cracker style design. Fresh oysters, a product of WEI’s Oyster Aquaculture program, were shucked on the porch as visitors explored the campus. The old-time string band Coon Bottom Creek shared some bluegrass favorites. A warm fire crackled in the wrap-around stone fireplace in the dogtrot, where dignitaries, local officials and TCC trustees addressed the crowd that spilled out beyond the entrance.

TCC President Jim Murdaugh said, “This has been a major labor of love. It was an ongoing effort, with lots of bumps in the road with any project like this, but as I stand here, I could not be more proud.”

In TCC’s 50th year as a college, the completion of WEI is that much more special.

Murdaugh credited Ballard for pursuing the vision. Three years ago, WEI’s campus only existed in conversation. They both agreed the campus needed three important elements – central location, access to a highway, and must be “environmentally interesting.” Those priorities were met, and exceeded.

“I don’t know that I could find a more interesting piece of property,” Ballard said of the 158 acres sitting atop a cave system, which includes sinkholes, a natural bridge and riverfront. He discussed the building’s technology that creates more energy than it uses, and land management curriculum found just outside its walls.

“The students that will come here are important students, because they are the future as far as the environment is concerned,” Ballard said.

Ballard expressed thanks to Gov. Rick Scott for signing off on \$4.5 million in legislative funding for the facility. He also recognized the TCC Board of Trustees; the Wakulla County Commission; Wakulla Chamber of Commerce; the architectural firm of Barnett, Fronczak, Barlowe Architects; and Cook Brothers Inc. contractors. Ballard thanked the Gaby family, who sold the property to WEI.

Special thanks also went to the William M. and Irene C. Payne family, for their financial gift to build the large double classroom.

Donna G. Callaway, Chair of the TCC Board of Trustees, said, “When good people take their skills and expertise, training, passion and vision, and turn it into doing good things – great things happen.” Callaway said the day marked the beginning of a new legacy. “We thank you for allowing us to build the dream here. And now that you see it, isn’t it your dream too? We hope so.”

Senator Bill Montford said the future impact of the facility will have international reach.

Wakulla Commission Chairman Ralph Thomas said he never imagined having a college in Wakulla County.

“Very few times we have an opportunity to witness history,” Thomas said. “I recognize you could have built this facility anywhere, but you decided to do it here, and that says loud and clear that you believed in Wakulla County. You believed in the resources here and the people here. It’s a tremendous investment that’s going to make the star of Wakulla County shine even brighter.”

Ballard said when he’s working late at the campus, it is comforting to see Wakulla deputies roll up to do a facility check. Sheriff Charlie Creel said the facility is a win-win for the county.

Trustees gathered with the officials to cut the burlap ribbon secured between two young longleaf pine trees at the fireplace.

## **Tallahassee Community College Veteran Success Center naming ceremony**

CAPITAL SOUP

The Tallahassee Community College Foundation will hold a naming ceremony for TCC's Veteran Success Center on Tuesday, February 23, to honor the contributions and support of TCC trustee Karen Moore and her husband, Richard. The community is invited to attend.

**What:** The dedication of the facility, which will be renamed the Richard W. and Karen B. Moore Veteran Success Center. This event will include special announcements on how the Moores' generous gift will enrich the lives of TCC's student veterans.

**When:** Tuesday, February 23, at 10 a.m.

**Where:** Second floor of Computer Technology (CT) Building at Tallahassee Community College. Map of main campus [here](#).

**Who:** Founder and CEO of Moore Communications Group Karen Moore, COO and general counsel of Moore Communications Group Richard Moore, and TCC student veterans are scheduled to speak at the event.

For information, contact Heather Mitchell at (850) 201-6067 or [mitchelh@tcc.fl.edu](mailto:mitchelh@tcc.fl.edu).

## **TCC to host spring part-time job fair**

CAPITAL SOUP

Tallahassee Community College will host its Spring Part-Time Job Fair on March 2 from 9 a.m. to noon in the TCC Student Union Ballroom. The job fair will connect individuals searching for part-time jobs and internships with area companies looking to fill open positions.

This event is not limited to TCC students. FSU and FAMU students and all members of the community are invited to attend. More than 280 people attended the Part-Time Job Fair last spring.

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## TCC is accepting applications for pioneering BSN program

CAPITAL SOUP

Tallahassee Community College is seeking applicants for its new Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree program, set to start May 6.

The BSN program, TCC's first-ever four-year degree offering, is among the highlights of the College's 50th anniversary year.

The program is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges and will pursue accreditation from the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing.

"While we are so proud of all of our graduates, we realize a baccalaureate degree can be a requirement if registered nurses want to expand their professional nursing practice," said Alice Nied, dean of healthcare programs and executive director of the Ghazvini Center for Healthcare Education. "It is exciting to be able to offer the next step in an RN's educational journey."

Prior to the program's accreditation, several community leaders, including Mark O'Bryant, president and CEO of Tallahassee Memorial HealthCare, and State Senator Bill Montford, cited the shortage of nurses with four-year degrees in the region's healthcare facilities.

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

The BSN degree provides registered nurses with academic and workforce pathways to higher-level positions, including leadership and management. The program also provides individuals with a pathway into master's and doctoral nursing programs.

Courses are offered online through the Division of Healthcare Professions, allowing students to move through the program at a comfortable, guided pace. Candidates must receive their BSN within four years of entry into the program.

The BSN program is designed for currently licensed registered nurses who have completed an associate degree in nursing. The curriculum complements the coursework and clinical experiences of the associate degree program.

There is a \$30 application fee. The application and program information can be found at [www.tcc.fl.edu/BSN](http://www.tcc.fl.edu/BSN).

Information sessions are set for Monday, February 22, at 8 a.m. and Monday, March 14, at 7:30 p.m. The sessions will be available online and at the Ghazvini Center for convenience. A preview of TCC's healthcare programs is available at <https://youtu.be/hez3paTjnQY>.

For information, contact Neisa Farley at the Division of Healthcare Professions at (850) 558-4500 or [healthedu@tcc.fl.edu](mailto:healthedu@tcc.fl.edu).

## TCC helped develop an affinity for service

TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT (50 FOR 50)

Though gospel singer Mary Bush-Smith didn't earn a degree from Tallahassee Community College, her time at the college and her participation in the chorus instilled in her a love for serving her community.

Bush-Smith, who was born and raised in Quincy, started at TCC after graduating from high school in 1971.

"I didn't have my mind made up as to what I wanted to major in, so I was just taking basic courses," she said. "But while taking those basic courses I got an insight as to what I really wanted to go into, and I knew that music was my field."

Bush-Smith had started singing when she was 10, and at TCC she joined a gospel chorale. The group performed at events in town as well as doing traveling shows.

After attending TCC, Bush-Smith began working at the local radio station in Gadsden County and, 35 years later, still hosts the Mary Bush-Smith Gospel Hour on 93.3 FM WVFT every Sunday morning. She also sings with her church and has toured all over the United States.

Bush-Smith has drawn much of her purpose in life from what she does outside of her "day job," but she's appreciative that the classes she took at TCC helped her land a job with state government, where she still works in the Department of Revenue.

"TCC taught us to be what we wanted to be and to make the best of your life in whatever you do," she said. "I could have decided to study radio or music and gone to FSU, but what I really learned was that I wanted to be involved in the community."

Mary Bush-Smith is still involved in her community. Every November for the last 13 years, she has held a benefit concert with guest singers and speakers. Proceeds from the concert are used to put together holiday food baskets for needy families in the area.

"I encourage people to start out at TCC, get your basics down, know where you're going and where you're trying to go, and let the instructors help you to get there," she said. "Find you in those two years. And find out what you want to do."

## TCC to rename Veteran Success Center

TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT (CAMPUS NOTES)

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The event begins at 10 a.m. in the Computer Technology building at TCC. The facility will be renamed the Richard W. and Karen B. Moore Veteran Success Center.

Founder and CEO of Moore Communications Group Karen Moore, COO and general counsel of Moore Communications Group Richard Moore, and TCC student veterans are scheduled to speak.

## TCC holds part-time job fair on March 2

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## Donors create opportunities for student veterans

### Sub-head

RYAN DAILEY

TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT

Tallahassee Community College's Veteran Success Center has been a place where student veterans can get away from the bustle of campus. It's a quiet place to study and to meet others who served in the armed forces.

Tucked in the second floor of TCC's Computer Technology building, the facility has large tables for study groups, sofas and computers. Additionally, there are financial aid officers and academic advisers specifically to assist veterans.

On Tuesday, the center was renamed the Richard W. and Karen B. Moore Veteran Success Center after two of TCC's longtime supporters.

Karen Moore is founder and CEO of public relations firm Moore Communications Group, in addition to being a TCC trustee. The couple's son, Jarrod, attended TCC.

Richard Moore, COO and general counsel of MCG, spoke to a crowd of students, student veterans and TCC staff at the renaming ceremony.

"Karen and I wanted to make a significant gift to TCC during the capital campaign," he said. "Service to our country and the military runs deep on both sides of our family."

Richard Moore explained his father and four of his uncles were combat veterans in World War II, and Karen's father was a Navy veteran. Richard served in the Air Force for six years.

Their personal connections to TCC and the college's dedication to serving its student veterans moved the Moores to make the donation to help create the new center. TCC will debut the Moore Veterans Leadership Academy in the fall semester. The program will serve as a bridge to connect veterans with professionals in the community through mentorship.

"The idea behind the academy is to really give veterans an opportunity to learn more about the college and being part of our community," said Veterans Success Center Coordinator Jennifer Barr.

Each student veteran who completes the academy will receive a scholarship.

President Jim Murdaugh said making veterans comfortable on campus is a top priority for the college's leadership.

"Veterans are a distinct group of students. They come to us with a lot of experience that other students may not have," said Murdaugh.

"When they come into an educational environment, they need to feel comfortable, they need to feel welcome. They need to feel there are people they can talk with that relate to their experiences."

Adam Cerullo was one of TCC's student veterans who spoke about the Success Center's impact. Cerullo, who was a physical therapy technician in the Navy, is working toward an associate degree in health science.

"We don't admit all the time that we need a support group," Cerullo said about veterans. "Having the Center is two things: It's having people with like minds, and having people you can share stories with."

## TCC accepting applications for pioneering BSN program

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Prior to the program's accreditation, several community leaders, including Mark O'Bryant, president and CEO of Tallahassee Memorial HealthCare, and State Senator Dill Montford, cited the shortage of nurses with four-year degrees in the region's healthcare facilities.

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## Sheri Rowland tapped as TCC's new VP/student affairs

Rowland previously served as TCC's dean of enrollment management

BYRON DOBSON

TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT

Sheri Rowland, who previously worked at Tallahassee Community College from 2004 to 2012, ultimately serving as its first dean of enrollment management, was named vice president for student affairs Friday.

Rowland, who earned a doctorate of education from Florida State University in 2003, comes to TCC from Middle Georgia State University in Macon, Georgia, where she serves as vice president for enrollment management.

"What a privilege it is to be selected to serve as the next Vice President for Student Affairs at TCC," Rowland said in a statement. "I am humbled to be joining such an exceptional leadership team whose clear vision is to design and deliver innovative strategies, programs, and services that align with the College's mission."

Rowland was one of four finalists chosen for on-campus interviews. She succeeds Sally Search, who is retiring this month after serving in various positions at TCC for more than 20 years.

Rowland's accomplishments at Middle Georgia include increasing student enrollment and the number of early applications, obtaining clean financial audits and initiating customer service practices.

In her application letter, she described herself as someone who values people and relationships, while keeping focused on achieving her goals.

"I believe as Gen. Colin Powell said, 'The day soldiers stop bringing you their problems is the day you have stopped leading them,' so I invest time and energy into the people and departments I am responsible to lead," she wrote.

"Dr. Sheri Rowland's 20-plus years of experience in the areas of change management, enrollment management, and executive leadership make her the perfect fit for the direction of this college," TCC President Jim Murdaugh said. "Her student-centered focus and documented successes will provide the leadership needed to guide the strong team currently in place as we continue to serve our students."

Rowland's previous tenure at TCC began in June 2004, when she served as director of enrollment services and testing. She also served as director of the Student Success Center, dean of enrollment management and ultimately dean of admissions/enrollment management.

Prior to first joining TCC, Rowland worked as director of enrollment and research at Gulf Coast Community College.

She begins her new job March 21.

Earlier this month, TCC hired Tracy Woodard-Meyers, a professor and director of the Women's and Gender Studies Program at Valdosta State University, as its dean of Communications and Humanities at Tallahassee Community College.

Woodward-Meyers also holds a doctorate from FSU, in human sciences.

## TCC helped Jenkins overcome obstacles

TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT (50 FOR 50)

Kyra Jenkins is one of many local nurses to earn her degree at Tallahassee Community College, but there is one thing that sets her apart. Jenkins is deaf.

Shortly after moving to Tallahassee in 2005, Jenkins had finished homeschooling her two youngest children and was looking for something new to occupy her time. Her husband, David, suggested she go back to school and become a nurse, a pursuit that had always interested her.

"And I thought, why couldn't I be a nurse?" said Jenkins.

Jenkins began losing her hearing in her early 30s and was using hearing aids by the time she was 40. Currently, she's lost about 60 percent of her hearing in one ear and 55 percent in the other. But her audiologist gave her the go ahead, so she enrolled at TCC in 2008.

In addition to using a special stethoscope that connects directly to her hearing aids, Jenkins had to overcome other obstacles in the classroom. The TCC Disability Support Services office helped her with assistive devices, and her counselor, Judy Barnes, helped her apply for scholarships for students with hearing impairments.

"TCC — the teachers and counselors I had — that was a blessing to have them," she said. "It was very encouraging. It got me over the fear factor."

The DSS office wasn't the only helping hand Jenkins had. Her children, Westley and Andrea, were dual enrolled at TCC while Jenkins was working on her nursing program prerequisites.

"We actually shared some classes. I'm sure they loved that," Jenkins joked.

After graduating in 2012, Jenkins began working at Tallahassee Memorial Hospital. She always has to use the best phone on the floor, and she can't work in the operating or emergency rooms because the staff wear masks that make it impossible for her to read their lips, but she loves what she does and is grateful that TCC helped her get there.

In 2015, Jenkins joined the board of Ability 1st, a community-based nonprofit organization that provides services to people with disabilities. Judy Barnes, her former TCC counselor, recommended her for the position.

## TCC is accepting applications for pioneering BSN program

TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT (CAMPUS NOTES)

Tallahassee Community College is seeking applicants for its new Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree program, set to start May 6.

The BSN program, TCC's first-ever four-year degree offering, is among the highlights of the College's 50th anniversary year.

The program is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges and will pursue accreditation from the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing.

Courses are offered online through the Division of Healthcare Professions, allowing students to move through the program at a comfortable, guided pace. Candidates must receive their BSN within four years of entry into the program.

There is a \$30 application fee. The application and program information can be found at [www.tcc.fl.edu/BSN](http://www.tcc.fl.edu/BSN).

An information session will be held Monday, March 14, at 7:30 p.m. For information, contact Neisa Farley at the Division of Healthcare Professions at (850) 558-4500 or [healthedu@tcc.fl.edu](mailto:healthedu@tcc.fl.edu).

## TCC to host women's leadership summit on entrepreneurship

TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT (CAMPUS NOTES)

To coincide with Women's History Month, Tallahassee Community College will host its annual Building Legacies: Women's Leadership Summit, a half-day event on entrepreneurship, at Goodwood Museum & Gardens from 8 a.m. to noon on March 1.

The women's leadership summit on entrepreneurship will feature female entrepreneurs who will share their stories, successes and words of wisdom and allow attendees to explore their own passions and entrepreneurial aspirations.

Guest speakers include Laurs Johnson, president of Coton Colors, Cynthia Kimble, physician and owner of Kimble Family Medicine, and Shannon Moore, owner of F.U.E.L. Nutrition Consulting, managing partner of Paisley Cafe and managing owner of GMT Pubs. The event will be moderated by Christine Urban, executive director of Domi Station.

Additional details can be found at [www.TCCWomenInLeadership.com](http://www.TCCWomenInLeadership.com). For information, contact Ranie Thompson at (850) 201-6074 or [thompsor@tcc.fl.edu](mailto:thompsor@tcc.fl.edu).

## Retired TCC faculty and staff invited to luncheon

TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT (CAMPUS NOTES)

Retired faculty and staff of Tallahassee Community College are invited to a luncheon on March 30 at 11:30 a.m. in the Center for Workforce Development.

This event is part of TCC's 50th anniversary celebrations. President Jim Murdaugh, the TCC Foundation, and the TCC Alumni & Friends Association will host the luncheon.

It is free to attend, but reservations are needed. Respond to Ysonde Jensen at 201-6065 or [jenseny@tcc.fl.edu](mailto:jenseny@tcc.fl.edu).

## TCC faculty meet with FSU graduate students

TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT (CAMPUS NOTES)

Tallahassee Community College faculty members visited Florida State University on January 22 to present a workshop for graduate students about teaching in Florida's state colleges and community colleges.

The event was hosted by Judith Devine, senior associate dean of FSU's Graduate School, and was held in the Honors, Scholars and Fellows House.

David DelRossi, interim director of TCC's Center for Professional Enrichment, spoke about preparing to teach in the Florida College System. Suzanne Ferrell-Locke and Vijay Subramanian, associate professors of mathematics, concentrated on what a successful community college professor should expect on campus.

Maria Suarez, associate professor of foreign language, focused on culturally responsive teaching. Greg Loyd, associate professor of communication and a member of TCC's faculty senate, discussed shared governance and service.

## **TCC employees earn entrepreneurship certifications**

TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT (CAMPUS NOTES)

Several Tallahassee Community College faculty and staff members recently earned Entrepreneurship Specialist Certificates from the National Association for Community College Entrepreneurship. They are Brenda Anthony, Michelle Baragona, Julie Baroody, Marilyn Dickey, Gareth Euridge, Patricia Heeter, Kim Moore, Sarah Olson, Bill Spiers and Kate Stewart.

## **TCC Communications and Marketing wins regional awards**

TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT (CAMPUS NOTES)

The TCC Office of Communications and Marketing won three awards from the Council of Advancement and Support of Education's District III.

The team was recognized for marketing materials and campaigns in print and digital publications, graphic design, and electronic and digital media categories. The district includes universities and colleges in Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee and Virginia.

## TCC offers options for summer GED classes

CAPITAL SOUP

Tallahassee Community College is now accepting applications for this summer's GED test preparation classes.

Online and face-to-face classes will be offered both Summer A Term (May 9-June 15) and Summer B Term (June 27-August 4).

Summer A Term students may choose from face-to-face GED classes offered in the morning or in the evening, while Summer B Term students may take face-to-face courses in the morning. Students in both terms may take the online classes at any time.

Students who are interested in preparing to earn their GED diploma should apply for admission to TCC online in order to create a TCC Passport account. The application is free.

Students will need to take the Test of Adult Basic Education before beginning class. The TABE is a placement test that tells students which GED class will meet their needs. Students can register for the TABE through their TCC Passport account. Students may also come to the Center for Workforce Development if they would like help in signing up to take the test. There is a fee of \$25 to take the TABE.

After taking the TABE, students can register for the specific GED class that is right for them. Tuition for GED classes is \$30.

To register for online or face-to-face GED classes, students should come to the TCC Center for Workforce Development on either May 3 for Summer A Term or June 21 for Summer B Term registration. Staff will be available from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on both dates to walk students through the course registration process.

For information, visit [www.tccadulthoodeducation.com](http://www.tccadulthoodeducation.com) or contact the Adult Education office at (850) 201-8760 or [ae@tcc.fl.edu](mailto:ae@tcc.fl.edu).

## Local law enforcement receive training to combat animal cruelty and fighting

LANETRA BENNETT

WCTV

Officials with the Humane Society of the United States say law enforcement officers need to know how to spot animal problems even if they're on an unrelated call.

Ken Sullivan, an instructor with the Humane Society, said, "They may be at a house on domestic violence case or something else investigating. Animal cruelty is a crime. Law enforcement is who investigates crimes, so they need to know what to look for."

The Humane Society and the Tallahassee Police Department hosted a seminar at the Florida Public Safety Institute Thursday on animal cruelty.

Investigator David Alford handles animal abuse cases with the Tallahassee Police Department. He said, "What we get forwarded to us are the worse of the worse. So, we see a lot of animals that have been mistreated, starved, skin and bones. It's heartbreaking."

The seminar taught officers how to document such incidents to protect the animals and the investigation.

Inv. Alford said, "Such as taking photographs of the animals, noting their physical conditions, size and weight, bone structure, how visible are the ribs. Evidence to look for such as shelter or the lack thereof, food water."

Officers then learned how to get the cases through the court system.

Kate MacFall, the Florida State Director for the Humane Society, said, "Animals are the most innocent and the most vulnerable. It's a horrible feeling to know it goes on. It goes on in every community, unfortunately. But, we know that officers, animal control and law enforcement officers are working hard to pursue these cases."

The seminar specifically covered dogfighting and cockfighting.

Instructors also point out an association between crimes against animals and crimes against people.

## Chef Blais blazes up the grill for TCC Foundation

MARK HINSON

TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT

Celebrity chef Richard Blais appeared very relaxed and jovial for a man who was about to make dinner for 250 people in less than two hours.

Guess winning “Top Chef All-Stars” on television and running a few restaurants in Atlanta and San Diego will calm your nerves in the kitchen.

“This place is absolutely beautiful,” Blais said as he walked around the grounds of Goodwood Museum & Gardens before the inaugural Cleaver and Cork fundraiser dinner for the TCC Foundation got underway on Friday night. The event tickets, which cost \$150 per person or \$250 per couple, were sold out.

Blais was about to serve up a four-course menu that featured oysters and crab, beef tartare on toast, lamb chops and Earl Grey crème brûlée. Oh yeah, and lots of wine.

“We’re doing a menu in homage to the classic American steakhouse, mainly because that’s what I felt like eating when they asked me to create the menu,” he said. “It includes plateau del mar, which is as much French as I speak.”

The fit and compact Blais, 44, may be a famous chef on TV these days, but he got his start working in a fast-food restaurant on his native Long Island, New York.

“I have humble roots, my first job was at a McDonald’s,” Blais said. “A little hamburger restaurant, I don’t know if you’ve heard of it. I had a very prestigious position — I was the poissonnier, which means fish cook in French. The first batch of Filet-O-Fish I sent out I forgot to put the top buns on the Filet-O-Fish so I was being avant-garde way before I knew food was my actual calling.”

He enjoyed the energy and buzz of the restaurant kitchens so much that he soon applied to the Culinary Institute of America — twice — before he was accepted. By the mid-’90s, he was working as an assistant cook in the famed French Laundry, with chef Thomas Keller in Napa Valley, California, which scored three Michelin stars in this year’s guide,

“I learned to be insanely organized in the kitchen (at the French Laundry),” Blais said.

In 2008, he became the audience favorite on the fourth season of “Top Chef” but came in second place after botching his final dish. Two years later, he returned for “Top Chef: All-Stars” and ran the table.

“The challenge to food television truly is timing,” Blais said. “The clock. If you’re cooking at home in the kitchen you’re already familiar with reality television. You come home from work, you have 30 minutes to get the food on the table, the kids are grabbing at your legs, someone’s yelling out the window. Whatever is happening in your world that’s chaotic — that’s basically reality television.”

Before the chef excused himself to return to the kitchen, Blais was asked what was his favorite meal of the year, so far.

“This is going to make me sound like a jerk right now because it was something I cooked,” Blais said and laughed. “It was a home-cooked meal a few weeks ago with some friends who came over and brought the kids. We roasted a leg of lamb on an open fire pit in my backyard in California.”

Then he added: “Food is really about who you’re dining with.”

## TCC launches \$10 million campaign for foundation

BYRON DOBSON

TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT

Buoyed by the momentum generated by alumni and supporters as it celebrates its 50th anniversary, Tallahassee Community College Friday night kicked-off a campaign to raise \$10 million to position the college for future years.

A sold-out crowd attending the \$150-per person "Cleaver and Cork" dining extravaganza at Goodwood Plantation also was told the TCC Foundation already has raised \$5.2 million toward its goal, and hopes the \$10 million can be raised by December.

The campaign is designed around TCC's needs and mission as it positions itself as the main education center offering degrees and job training matching the region's workforce needs.

For instance:

Donors can sponsor a classroom for \$25,000, which goes toward adding technology and creating an improved learning environment.

New academic centers in Wakulla and Gadsden counties each need a \$1 million investment, as does the TCC Downtown Center for Innovation in space once occupied by the Mary Brogan Museum.

\$1 million will go toward "Bridging the Gap" scholarships to help provide access for students in need and assist working students in removing obstacles from earning their degrees at TCC.

The additional \$5 million will be used for future TCC needs through the foundation.

"We don't know what opportunities might be ahead of us," said Karen Moore, the CEO of Moore Communications Group, who sits on TCC's Board of Trustees and is chairing the campaign.

In a meeting Thursday with the Tallahassee Democrat's editorial board, TCC President Jim Murdaugh, TCC Foundation Executive Director Heather Mitchell and Moore, said the campaign was designed with a look toward the next 50 years.

"I think the college, for the next 50 years, is going to be framed through innovation," Moore said. "We are going

to seek help from our alumni and our partners in the community. We have a lot of ways for people to get involved."

Moore said the \$5.2 million already raised from the local private sector is an indication businesses and individuals see the college's value.

In previous campaigns, TCC raised \$10 million between 2002-2004 and \$5 million between 2008-2010, Mitchell said.

The college will maintain its mission of preparing students with a solid two-year education so they can move onto their junior year at a four-year university, and also to prepare students with skills they need now to go to work.

At the same time, it must be prepared for change, Murdaugh, said noting the trustees' approval of a four-year bachelor's of nursing degree in response to needs expressed by the local medical community.

In materials promoting the "TCC. We Rise" campaign, it is noted that 55 percent of high-school graduates in Gadsden, Leon and Wakulla counties choose TCC to further their education.

And, while that is good, it also puts pressure on the college to up the ante in being innovative and prepared for new students, many of who are top scholars, but still are unable to get admitted to Florida State, Murdaugh said. He noted that TCC's enrollment, 14,000 students, is larger than five universities in Florida, including Florida A&M.

A lot of that growth can be attributed to the changing academic and workforce-driven environment, Murdaugh said.

"Community colleges have always been a place where anyone with a GED or high-school diploma could come for an education," he said. "But access is changing. Now access includes a lot of different groups than it used to. Take Florida State. They are becoming increasingly exclusive. It's become harder to get into FSU, even with a good GPA. Those students are becoming part of our demographic."

## TCC launches \$10 million campaign for foundation....

*continued*

Murdaugh also explained that TCC recently opened the Wakulla Environmental Institute and still maintains the TCC Center in Wakulla. On March 21, it will open its Gadsden Center, owning its building rather than leasing as it has in the past.

The TCC Downtown Center for Innovation will bring an education and technology hub to the middle of the city.

This is designed to provide access to job training or to prepare for continued education.

And it means TCC must have the financial resources to position itself for the future, Murdaugh said, noting that access also contributed to TCC placing its entire associate degree courses online.

"We are demand-driven by the organizations that hire our students," Murdaugh said. "We don't offer any kinds of programs that don't lead you into work."

Mitchell said the campaign was framed around the mission provided by Murdaugh and trustees.

"We wanted to make sure it matched the vision of where Dr. Murdaugh and the board wanted us to go."

## TCC answered the call for Wood's educational needs

TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT (50 FOR 50)

Mike Wood was appointed sheriff of Leon County in January 2015, bringing more than 30 years of law enforcement experience to the job. Since joining the Leon County Sheriff's Office in 1983, Wood has worked as a uniform deputy, a school resource officer and a detective, and supervised the vice and narcotics units. In 2006, he was promoted to major and served as division director for all law enforcement operations and as director of operations at the Leon County Jail.

Wood, a Tallahassee native, worked as a pipe fitter and welder after graduating from Rickards High School in 1977. His brother, Ray, a now-retired LCSO captain, encouraged him to volunteer with the sheriff's reserve unit in 1982, leading to a career switch a year later.

Wood knew he wanted to enhance his law enforcement career with a college degree. With the support of the late Sheriff Larry Campbell, he and several other LCSO officers enrolled at Tallahassee Community College. Wood graduated with an associate degree in criminal justice technology in 2008.

"We didn't feel like we were out of place at all," said Wood, of his TCC experience. "We were treated with lots of respect."

For Wood, a highlight of attending TCC was having singer Pam Laws as his English professor. "She was a local legend, a well-known artist who taught us how to write and inspired us to do well," he said.

Wood has remained connected to TCC through the college's Pat Thomas Law Enforcement Academy. He trained at the facility as a member of the Special Weapons and Tactics Team and also honed underwater recovery and rescue skills for the Tactical Dive Team.

"The Pat Thomas Law Enforcement Academy is a top-notch facility that can stand beside any in the country," said Wood. The academy attracts officers from around the state, and 65 to 70 percent of LCSO officers train there, he added.

Wood's daughter, Michael, is finishing her second year at TCC and plans to transfer to Florida State University to pursue a communications degree. Daughter Annie is also a TCC alumna and recently graduated from FSU with degrees in studio art and social work.

## Family, positive people inspire Mary Pankowski

MARINA BROWN

TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT

Could it be that parents are correct when they say, "doing your chores will build character"? In the case of attorney and educator, Mary L. Pankowski, such early rigors inspired a soaring career that has spanned decades of service and accomplishment.

The oldest of nine children, Pankowski was raised on a chicken farm in upstate New York. "We had responsibilities for the garden, the chickens, and selling the fruits and vegetables to our neighbors," she says. Her father eventually left the chicken farm, and moved the family to Florida and became a respected journalist. Her mother, daughter of a New York state judge, was the inspirational motivator to all her children, reminding them that, "through education you can do what you set your mind to do." Pankowski took those words to heart.

She attended the University of Florida earning a Bachelor's degree in education, followed up by a Master's degree in counseling. She later taught at Lively Vo-Tech and subsequently attended Florida State University and received a Ph.D. in adult education. While pursuing these endeavors, her mother helped Pankowski raise her three children, Joe, Mark and Anne-Marie. "I count my family as so very supportive of everything I've ever accomplished," she says. Her husband of 53 years, Joe Pankowski, whom she regards as a "true partner in all I do," typed the first draft of her Ph.D. dissertation and has relocated as Pankowski's career arched upward.

Specializing in adult education over the years, Pankowski was eventually appointed as Associate Vice President of Academic Affairs and Director of FSU's Center for Professional Development and Public Service. She had been at FSU for 25 years when Miami's Florida International University (FIU) came calling. There she was offered the chance to develop a new conference center and be in charge of FIU's North Campus. Again, she loved the job, but it became clear that Miami was not where her husband wanted to live. And they were a partnership after all. Pankowski decided to reinvent herself back in Tallahassee.

Why not become an attorney? She had taken the LSAT exam 25 years before, now she took it again. Both times she gained entry to Florida State University's College of Law. And so after a career in adult education, Pankowski

put into practice the skills she knew so well. She finished law school in 2 ½ years and began work as an assistant attorney in the State Attorney's office in Tallahassee. Her focus became juvenile law. Seeing troubled youth day after day, Pankowski realized she needed to find a way to get kids who had made a mistake on the path to a better future. **Thus, she helped establish the New Start Scholarship at Tallahassee Community College which provides funds to high achieving students who had made a mistake that made them ineligible for other state scholarships.** And, after 11 years with the state attorney's office, Pankowski opened her own law office to provide legal support to young juvenile offenders.

In addition to the creation of the New Start Scholarship, Pankowski has reached into the community with her helping hands. She is past president of the Tallahassee Rotary Club and is a member of the Tallahassee Community College Foundation, the Capital Women's Network and the Board of Visitors for the FSU College of Law.

And is she now retired? No. Mary Pankowski doesn't seem to understand the word. She says that developing and teaching her current course in Florida Juvenile Law at FSU's College of Law is one of the most rewarding things she has ever done. "Surround yourself with positive people, and you'll be able to do amazing things," she says. A mantra that seems to have indeed produced an amazing career.

However, family means the most to Mary and Joe Pankowski. In addition to their three children and their respective spouses, they are proud of their awesome 13 grandchildren.

## **TCC Brain Bowl team scores well in national tournament**

TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT (CAMPUS NOTES)

The TCC Brain Bowl team participated in the National Academic Quiz Tournament 2016 Community College National Championship in Atlanta on February 26-27.

The team, which includes Maribeth Curci, Meleket Ferrede, Nathaniel Henry, Dylan Johnson and Landon Glover, came away with six wins and five losses.

Earlier in the season, the team earned a berth in the Florida College System Activities Association State Brain Bowl Tournament, which will be held at Pasco-Hernando State College on April 14-15. The team is coached by David Proctor, professor of history.

## **TCC staffer receives emergency management credential**

TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT (CAMPUS NOTES)

G.W. Lupton, TCC's emergency management and safety coordinator, has received the certified emergency manager credential from the Certified Emergency Manager Commission.

The CEM designation is the highest honor of professional achievement available from the International Association of Emergency Managers. Applicants had to complete an extensive credentials package, a management essay and a written examination.

The credentials requirements include experience, references, education, training and contributions to the profession. The management essay requires respondents to submit a response to a scenario they might face while fulfilling emergency management responsibilities.

## Students offer free tax help to families

PAIGE RENTZ

TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT

Families looking for a tax refund don't have to pay hundreds of dollars to get it thanks the help of local college students.

About 40 students from Florida State University and Tallahassee Community College are helping local families find deductions and file their taxes free of charge.

The program, SaveFirst, is a project of Impact America and is sponsored locally by the United Way of the Big Bend, FSU's Center for Leadership & Social Change, TCC and Florida Campus Compact.

"They don't need to pay \$300 to get their taxes done at a commercial preparer," said Karen Harris, program coordinator at the Center for Leadership & Social Change.

The students, she said, have undergone eight hours of training and up to three hours of testing to become IRS-certified tax preparers.

Rose Rodriguez, a sophomore from St. Petersburg, is trained to handle more complicated returns.

"It definitely has been an enlightening experience working with these families and understanding their day-to-day struggles," Rodriguez said. "When a taxpayer comes in, they come in with their whole lives on paper."

This can make them vulnerable, she said. Sometimes her work can mean the difference between a client getting new clothes for her children or not.

The program is aimed at families with incomes of about \$52,000 a year who are likely eligible for the earned income tax credit or individuals with incomes of \$20,000. This service is available Thursdays at TCC's student union from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. and Wednesdays from 12 p.m. to 6 p.m. at the Florida Blue Center, 2116 Apalachee Parkway.

Volunteers will also be available from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, March 5, at Florida Blue, as well as Saturday, April 16, which is the final weekend before the April 18 filing deadline. There will be no service during spring break.

Walk-ins are welcome, but those with appointments are given priority. To make an appointment, call the SaveFirst appointment hotline at 1-844-4-TAX-FLA (1-844-482-9352).

## City won't pursue TechHire funding

SEAN ROSSMAN

TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT

The city of Tallahassee won't pursue a \$2 million to \$5 million grant to fund private and public partnerships for tech job training this year.

Mayor Andrew Gillum's chief of staff Dustin Daniels said the city, and several partners, were simply not ready to put forward a competitive application for the TechHire Partnership grant program.

A Tuesday email from Assistant City Manager Raoul Lavin, the head of the city's administrative and professional services area, said Daniels wasn't able to reach agreements with the partners in time to apply by the Friday deadline. The city does not need to reapply for the designation, Daniels said. He hopes the collaborators are in a better place next year to seek grant funds.

The City Commission gave the go-ahead to pursue the designation and the grant at its Feb. 10 meeting. The \$100 million program through the U.S. Department of Labor awards grants between \$2 million and \$5 million for "communities that create programs or partnerships that the TechHire initiative has identified."

**Also on Tuesday, the White House named Tallahassee as one of 50 communities to join President Barack Obama's TechHire Initiative. Gillum's office boasted about the designation in a Wednesday news release saying it would "foster connections between candidates and tech employers with innovative training." Tallahassee TechHire, the mayor's office said, will help residents with training in order to meet local job demands. The training would come from local tech programs including Tallahassee Community College's adult vocation programs and code camps.**

Daniels said his office didn't mention they weren't pursuing the funds in the news release because the designation and the TechHire Partnership grant are separate, despite sharing the same name. The grant program, he said, is open to any city, and doesn't give special weight to TechHire designated municipalities.

Daniels said the TechHire designation allows the city to collaborate with local partners. Plans are still underway to train 175 residents in tech skills this year with the hope that number will increase to 250 by 2020. With the

designation, the city will also benefit from support from organizations and corporations like LinkedIn, which can provide data to help the city track its workforce.

Commissioner Gil Ziffer worries that without the grant money, the initiatives won't get off the ground.

"The designation is important," he said. "But without grants or partners willing to commit their resources for the training, it's like announcing the opening of a restaurant that has a great menu and a line of customers without a kitchen to prepare it."

## TCC alum Freda King gives back to current students

TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT (50 FOR 50)

Carolyn “Freda” King was struggling with addiction and poverty when she began to turn her life around at age 36. The high school dropout eventually earned her GED diploma and associate degree at Tallahassee Community College and later graduated from Florida State University.

King is now a certified addiction professional and supervises a re-entry program for DISC Village and a substance abuse education program at the Leon County Jail. She also provides substance abuse and life skills education for Refuge House, which serves women affected by domestic violence.

King said that TCC played a vital role in her success. “I came to TCC unsure if I could achieve college success. I left a woman with pride and determination, believing that I could obtain my goals and reach success. TCC helped me become the woman I am today.”

King received a scholarship through the TCC Foundation that allowed her to stay in school. She graduated with a 3.5 grade point average, was TCC’s student of the year and gave the commencement address at graduation. She has also been a TCC Women’s History Month honoree.

Just before she graduated magna cum laude from FSU in 2010, King’s soldier son Brandon was killed in Afghanistan. To honor him, the family created the Brandon Michael King Scholarship to help deserving students attend TCC. They hold a special event each summer that has already raised more than \$30,000 for the scholarship fund.

In 2013, Freda King won a LeRoy Collins Distinguished Alumni Award from the Association of Florida Colleges. Ranie Thompson, development officer at the TCC Foundation, said that when she was asked to recommend a nominee, King’s was the first name that came to mind—not only because of her inspiring story, but also because she has used her education to benefit others.

King shares what she has learned with others as a motivational speaker, encouraging them to make positive changes in their lives. Her message focuses on drug prevention and recovery and the importance of education.

In fact, she is not done with her own educational journey. King recently started graduate studies in FSU’s criminal justice program so she can have an even greater impact on her community.

## Deputy meets the girl he saved 38 years ago

JENNIE MCKEON

NORTHWEST FLORIDA DAILY NEWS

Most deputies don't get to know what happened to the people they save.

But Monday afternoon, Bill Bierbaum, who worked with the Walton County Sheriff's Office from 1977 to 1978, got to reunite with the 2-year-old girl he saved exactly 38 years ago.

Vera Goodwin remembers the day perfectly.

It was March 14, 1978. She was taking her kids swimming. In the back of her truck, the kids were eating lemon drops and somehow her 2-year-old daughter Carrie got a hold of one.

"We were stopped at a stop sign and (Carrie) was turning black ... her face and shoulders," Vera recalled. "I thought I lost my baby."

She grabbed her daughter and ran over to Bierbaum, and then City Marshal Gary Kennedy, who were standing outside the Walton County Jail.

Bierbaum said he vividly remembers standing on the steps of the jail and seeing a woman run toward him with "something in her arms."

They went "straight into action," Vera said.

Bierbaum put Carrie on the hood of the truck and began CPR while Kennedy began mouth to mouth resuscitation.

According to an article from the DeFuniak Herald, witnesses said they heard Kennedy plead "Don't die baby, don't die baby."

By the time an ambulance arrived, the men were able to remove the candy from the child's throat and she was taken to Walton County Hospital for further treatment.

Carrie was reunited with one of her saviors when her and her mother joined Bierbaum inside a conference room at the Walton County Sheriff's Office on Monday. Kennedy has since passed away.

The reunion was set up by a family friend. Carrie had always wanted to meet the men who saved her life, her mother said.

Carrie bought a new dress and shoes for the occasion. WCSO presented her with a few mementos and DeFuniak Springs Police Department gave her a photo of Kennedy.

"I'm going to put it up on my wall ... it will make me happy and cry," she said.

While Carrie doesn't remember that day, Bierbaum told her it was a "bright spot" in his 30-plus years in law enforcement. [Today, he's the director of certificate programs for the Florida Public Safety Institute at Tallahassee Community College.](#)

"It's days like that you never forget," he said. "I've done CPR on people who didn't make it. ... This is a happy memory."

Bierbaum said he never imagined he would get to meet Carrie again.

"To think 38 years ago that beautiful young lady was an infant in my arms ...," he said.

Carrie, now 40, enjoys going to church and babysitting for her relatives.

"Everybody in the church loves her," Vera said with a big smile. "They saved a very important life that day."

## TCC to host Women's History Month events

CAPITAL SOUP

TCC invites the public to celebrate Women's History Month by honoring outstanding women at the College and in the community. This year's theme is Working to Form a More Perfect Union: Honoring Women in Public Service and Government.

On March 29, the Florida Public Safety Institute will hold the 10th annual Women in History Program at the FPSI Conference Centerwest of Tallahassee on Highway 90. There will be a meet and greet at 8 a.m. with breakfast, and the program will begin at 8:30 a.m. Judge Stephanie W. Ray from the Florida First District Court of Appeal will serve as the guest speaker. The event is free, but attendees should register in advance with Brittany Jackson at [jacksobr@tcc.fl.edu](mailto:jacksobr@tcc.fl.edu).

On March 30, TCC will recognize 10 women from the community and five of the College's outstanding students during its annual Women's History Month Celebration. The event will begin at 6 p.m. in the Ghazvini Center for Healthcare Education at 1528 Surgeons Drive. Christina K. Daly, secretary of the Florida Department of Juvenile Justice, will serve as the guest speaker. For information, email Jarrett Phipps at [phippsj@tcc.fl.edu](mailto:phippsj@tcc.fl.edu).

## TCC to offer Summer Mini Express courses, Fall Weekend College

CAPITAL SOUP

Tallahassee Community College will offer a variety of three-week Summer Mini Express courses starting May 9, 2016.

Face-to-face courses will be taught on TCC's main campus and meet each weekday from May 9 to June 1. Some courses will be offered online.

Registration opens Monday, March 28. Students can enroll at [tccpassport.tcc.fl.edu](http://tccpassport.tcc.fl.edu).

In addition, in Fall 2016, TCC will offer its first Weekend College, where students can acquire their associate degree solely on the weekend, as well as attend classes for up to 9 credit hours each Saturday. Students will have access to an adviser and academic support from the library and learning commons.

The Weekend College courses cover some of the most important and high-demand core general education requirements for degree-seeking students. Classes include 7-week and 16-week options, as well as transitional courses for students with developmental needs.

These initiatives are further steps in TCC's continued endeavor to provide access for those desiring to get an education with flexible class options.

For information, contact Feleccia Moore-Davis at (850) 201-6063 or [mooredaf@tcc.fl.edu](mailto:mooredaf@tcc.fl.edu).

## Wind tunnel, oysters, beef promotion spice up budget

JIM TURNER

TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT

The state's new \$82.3 billion budget, approved by lawmakers Friday, isn't all about the big expenses of government, such as education, health care, law enforcement and transportation.

Throughout the record spending plan are hundreds of local and agency projects that some lawmakers argued will help the economy or Florida residents. Now, Gov. Rick Scott will use his veto pen to decide which projects survive in the budget that takes effect July 1.

Here are examples of some of the projects and programs tucked into the budget:

**FAIRS AND RODEOS:** The budget includes a \$4.3 million line item for agricultural promotion, with \$670,000 for the Central Florida Fair, \$500,000 for the Hendry County Fair and Livestock Show, \$500,000 for the Manatee River Fair Association, and \$400,000 for the Walton County Fair Association. A separate grant would provide \$250,000 for renovations of the Hendry County Fairgrounds Rodeo Complex.

**FELON WATCH:** The budget includes \$300,000 for the Department of Corrections to contract with the University of Florida to develop a plan for the state to transfer the community supervision of felony offenders to county sheriffs. The university researchers will also have to determine, by Nov. 1, the cost to implement the county sheriff-based probation system

Another \$500,000 from the same pot would go to the Home Builders Institute to provide certification, pre-apprenticeships and job-placement services to people under community corrections supervision.

**PALM BEACH GUN RANGE:** This wasn't the most gun-friendly legislative session of the Scott years, but lawmakers did tuck \$3.09 million into the spending plan for a shooting park in northern Palm Beach County.

Lawmakers also agreed to pump \$3.2 million into the facility in 2015 to get work underway. Once completed, the facility, on 150 acres in the J.W. Corbett Wildlife Management Area, will provide ranges for rifle and pistol shooting, a trap and skeet shooting area and concessions.

**EAT BEEF, AND GATORS:** The budget includes \$2 million to "strengthen the market position of Florida's cattle industry in this state and in the nation."

Another \$150,000 would go to the Department of Agriculture's alligator marketing. Scott vetoed the line item as budget fat his first year in office but has since backed off after it was pointed out that the marketing money is paid by alligator farmers.

**SAVE THE OYSTERS:** With the oyster industry struggling in Northwest Florida, the Wakulla Environmental Institute is slated to get \$250,000 for oyster cultch material research. According to the budget, the money is intended to determine what material "is most effective for spat set and oyster population revitalization."

**MEASURING TURBULENCE:** The budget includes \$1 million to help Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University in Daytona Beach complete a large-scale wind tunnel projected to cost nearly \$28 million. The school received \$9 million in 2013 from the state, as the tunnel is expected to be used in partnership with aerospace manufacturing companies to test space vehicles, airplane parts and maybe even race cars --- this is Daytona after all.

**SEE MORE OF WHERE YOU LIVE:** Besides wooing tourists from other parts of the country and world, the Visit Florida budget includes \$1.8 million to contract with the Florida Restaurant and Lodging Association to market Florida to Floridians. "This campaign shall require a private matching program and shall be conducted throughout the state," the budget says.

**OCEAN TIRE REMOVAL:** The budget includes \$1.8 million for new technologies to complement the hand removal of tires from the Osborne Reef off Broward County, where tires had been put in the ocean in the hope of creating new fish habitat. The money will also go to a study on the environmental benefits of the tire removal program.

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(NOTE: Article truncated for relevance to TCC.)

## \$18.5 million in state funding possible for Wakulla County projects

WAKULLA NEWS

Wakulla County Administration announced \$18.5 million in possible funding for local projects. The state's new \$82.3 billion budget, approved by lawmakers Friday, is a record spending plan that some lawmakers argued will help the economy and Florida residents. Now, Gov. Rick Scott will use his veto pen to decide which projects survive in the budget that takes effect July 1.

"And again this year, the county is fortunate to have funding for several of its specific initiatives and projects in the 2016 State Budget, which is due to staff efforts in submitting projects and providing information to the Legislature," said Sheree T. Keeler, Director of Intergovernmental Affairs. "Sen. Bill Montford's efforts and support of Wakulla County was highly successful this legislative session."

With the oyster industry struggling in Northwest Florida, the Wakulla Environmental Institute is slated to get \$250,000 for oyster cultch material research. According to the budget, the money is intended to determine what material "is most effective for spat set and oyster population revitalization."

Sen. Montford's office announced other allocations:

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\$18.1 Million for Roads and Transportation:

- \$9.4 million to continue improvements and lane expansion along U.S. 319 from Leon County to E Ivan Road..
- \$3.9 million for three resurfacing projects on Cajer Posey Rd., SR 267, MLK.
- \$4.8 million to continue construction of the Capital City to the Sea Loop along U.S. 98.

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Other projects:

- \$100,000 FRDAP/Community Center Improvements, playground and basketball court.
- \$80,000 Extension Center/Livestock Facility Improvements and Repairs.



## Two TCC Gateways in Wakulla County



### TCC Wakulla Center

2932 Crawfordville Highway | (850) 922-6290

- Workforce-focused programs, including retail customer service training, online small business management certificate with an entrepreneurial focus, and job training for individuals with disabilities.
- Customized training and other services for employers.
- Resource room providing tools such as training, internships and other career opportunities needed to secure employment.
- The same student services available at TCC's main campus, such as testing services, academic advising, internship placement and other career services, and financial aid consultations on a scheduled basis.
- Computer lab for use in online programs and courses.



### Wakulla Environmental Institute

170 Preservation Way | (850) 558-3500

- Combining education, conservation and recreation to stimulate economic development in an environmentally responsible manner.
- Current programs: oyster aquaculture, environmental drone technology, environmental science technology.
- Future programs: Green Guide, forest and land management, hospitality, ecotourism, recreation.
- Located in a 10,000-square foot model green facility on 158 acres in the heart of one of the most ecologically diverse places in the U.S.