

# TALLAHASSEE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

*In the News*

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February 13, 2010 - March 5, 2010



# TALLAHASSEE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

*In the News*

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## TCC Speech & Debate Team Wins Big

**Reporter: Heather Bianca**

EMAIL ADDRESS: HEATHER.BIANCE@WCTV.TV

TCC's Speech and Debate team has plenty to talk about after bringing home first place against sixteen universities nationwide.

The eight team members were in Boston on February 5th through the 8th, competing in a two-day tournament against schools like Harvard, Emerson, Suffolk and the University of Florida.

TCC was the only 2-year college competing, but took home the blue ribbon.

Monday, the team members and staff were recognized at the college's board of trustees meeting and then surprised TCC President Dr. Bill Law by giving him their trophy.

TCC will host the Florida State College Tourney on campus and will then participate in the 4-Year University Competition in Jupiter, Florida.

TCC will host the national competition in New Orleans later in April.

## TCC Awards Degree 20 Years After Student Dies

**Reporter: Heather Bianca**

EMAIL ADDRESS: HEATHER.BIANCE@WCTV.TV

It's been two decades since a TCC student died from a rare medical condition, but Monday his family was all smiles as they accepted their son and father's degree for him.

After serving 8 years in the United State's Air Force, Robert Northup enrolled as a student at TCC.

10 month's later, he died unexpectedly from an ruptured aortic aneurysm at the young age of 29.

On Monday, Robert's parent's and two daughters were awarded a degree in his honor from TCC President Bill Law.

"I wrote a letter to Dr. Law asking if he could possibly award a diploma in honor of him or something of that nature and he immediately contacted me and said yes, we'll do that," says Robert's Dad, A.J. Northup.

A.J. says he, his other son Alan and Robert's two daughters and wife have all received their Associates Degree from TCC and say this is helping to fulfill their family legacy.

## TCC aids Haitian fundraising efforts

**By Angeline J. Taylor**  
DEMOCRAT STAFF WRITER

A goodwill effort to keep Haitian students enrolled at Tallahassee Community College ended up being unnecessary, President Bill Law said.

Law originally intended to pay tuition for "Haitian students (attending TCC) on visas" in the aftermath of the magnitude 6.0 earthquake that nearly levelled Port-au-Prince. He was directed by trustees who unanimously agreed to "alleviate any tuition burden" the students would normally have to pay.

Turns out, there are no Haitian students at the college on student visas, Law said. The 36 Haitian students at TCC are permanent residents of the United States. Thirty-four of the 36 are on some type of federal financial aid, Law added.

He made recommendations in January to pay their tuition to prevent them from dropping out of school just to return to a home that has been destroyed, he said.

"The good news is the students are staying," Law said.

Since a commitment was made, Law and other administrators donated \$2,500 to students' fundraising efforts for Haiti.

"Our faculty, staff and students distinguished themselves in reaching out to our Haitian students," Law said.

## Big Bend artists shine at Matinee

From quilters to critters, it's all free to see on Saturday at the Tallahassee Museum

**By Kathleen Laufenberg**  
DEMOCRAT STAFF WRITER

On Saturday, head to the 52-acre Tallahassee Museum for a day of live music, dance performances, artistic presentations and animal encounters.

Bring your kids, your cousins and your neighbors, too. Admission — normally \$9 for adults and \$6 for kids ages 4 to 15 — is waived during the museum's once-a-year Matinee of the Arts.

"We got started with this as a way to support Seven Days of Opening Nights," executive director Russell Daws said.

But the museum's day-long celebration takes a different approach than Florida State University's annual arts extravaganza, which brings to town big-name, nationally known artists.

"We wanted to showcase our local arts community," Daws said. "This is a way for families to get exposed to all the diversity of our cultural arts."

This year, you can chat with O.L. Samuels, one of Tallahassee's best known folk artists. Samuels, in his 70s, is known for his lively, stream-of-consciousness preaching and storytelling about his art, God and more. He'll be on hand to talk about any of the 30 or so pieces he has on display in the museum's science building from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

There will be dozens of other artists and performers at the museum, too, including jewelry artist Malinda Patrick Cowan; quilter Valerie Goodwin; stained-glass maker Ruth

## Big Bend artists shine at Matinee....

*continued*

Nickens; potter Nancy Jefferson; and woodworkers with the Capital City Carvers.

On the outdoor stage and elsewhere on the grounds, you can sample a variety of live music and dance groups. A few of the groups slated to perform are the FSU Dance Repertory Theater; the Polynesian-style dance group Mau 'oli 'oli; Appalachian-style cloggers, the Hot Pepper Steppers; SAIL High School's Americana Bluegrass Ensemble; and the [Tallahassee Community College](#) African Drum and Dance Ensemble.

The [TCC](#) group is "just wicked good," said Laura Cassels, the museum's public relations director. "They are high energy and just give a great performance."

If you're ready for an animal encounter, watch for museum educators strolling along with various critters, such as owls, turtles and snakes. Make sure to check out the special exhibit "Alien Attack: Target Everglades" that highlights the problems being caused by exotic animal species such as the Burmese python. Some experts estimate there are 30,000 Burmese pythons now living in the Everglades, and because of their voracious appetites, many native animals are in danger.

The museum's open-air habitat zoo — home to indigenous Florida wildlife such as red wolves, Florida panthers and bobcats, deer, birds of prey and more — will be open, too.

Kids can also enjoy a variety of hands-on art activities, Cassels said.

"People need the arts, especially in these hard times," she said. "It's just an uplifting experience."

### Additional Facts

If you go

What: Matinee of the Arts

When: 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday

Where: Tallahassee Museum, 3945 Museum Drive (on Lake Bradford)

Admission: Free

Details: (850) 575-8684 or [tallahasseeemuseum.org](http://tallahasseeemuseum.org)

## Tallahassee Democrat - February 16, 2010

### City of Tallahassee reaches out to college students

By Ashley Ames

DEMOCRAT WRITER

Those student body representatives who were hoping to get a true dialogue with Mayor John Marks on Monday may have been a little let down.

Fifteen student representatives from [Tallahassee Community College](#), Florida A&M, and Florida State met with the mayor as part of a week-long series called "Students' First Week."

The goal was to hold the first of many sessions planned this week to identify issues of importance to college students and to create a dialogue between students and city officials.

"This is the first time this has been done," Marks said of the gathering. "But not the last, assuming I win re-

election," he added with a laugh.

The mayor then spoke for the better part of an hour about his plans for the city (better marketing, increasing tourism), the city's needs (better transportation, lower unemployment rate) and what he hopes to see in the future (creating "a sense of place" for Frenchtown, Midtown and Market Square.)

Student concerns included: the lack of transportation to the airport, the dearth of outlet malls, getting the mayor and city officials more involved at [TCC's](#) community efforts, high utility rates and a proposal to construct a pedestrian zone near Tennessee and Dewey streets.

Gallop Franklin II, student body president of Florida A&M,

## City of Tallahassee reaches out to college students....

*continued*

asked what the city was doing to regulate tow companies.

"Towing companies seem to take advantage of the students," Franklin said. "It seems like the towing companies are really focusing on students."

To this, the mayor mentioned an ordinance from two years ago and looked at his aide, Ramon Alexander, and said, "let's take a look at it."

In response to a student's perception about a disconnect between the city and university students, especially in term of promoting cultural activities, Marks said there are plenty of opportunities but "we're suffering from an inability to get the word out. Let's figure out a marketing strategy."

He proposed a student session with Lee Daniels, Leon County's director of tourism and economic development.

"I hate to shove it off," Marks said, "But he can do a lot more than I can."

Today the city will host the Capital City Student Dialogue from 6 to 7:30 p.m. at City Hall.

"Tomorrow will be more interactive," Franklin said.

**Tallahassee Democrat** - February 16, 2010

## Degree awarded posthumously to TCC dad

**By Angeline J. Taylor**

DEMOCRAT STAFF WRITER

Robert Northrup wanted to get an associate's degree from Tallahassee Community College like his father, mother and brother before him. But he died Feb. 9, 1989, before getting the coveted diploma. Monday, he got his honors.

TCC President Bill Law extended a posthumous degree to Northrup, who died when his daughters, Michelle and Jennie Northrup, were 3 and 1 years-old respectively.

"I hope this brings relief and pleasure to the whole family," Law said as he handed over the TCC diploma.

Michelle and Jennie Northrup are now 24 and 22 years-old respectively. The women, their grandparents and Law looked emotionally moved during the quick ceremony for Robert Northrup.

Robert Northrup's daughters appeared to gaze at the diploma with pride. They posed for a picture with Law and seemed moved beyond words.

TCC trustee chairwoman Karen Moore said, "Every day we get to see success stories but it's lovely when you have a chance to honor (students)."

Robert Northrup's daughters picked up the family gauntlet and continued the tradition in their father's absence. Michelle Northrup received her degree in 2006 and went on to receive a bachelor's degree in political science from Florida State University. Jennie Northrup received her associates' degree in 2009. She is enrolled in the nurses program at Keiser University.

Michelle Northrup called the event "overwhelming."

Robert Northrup's mother, Mary Northrup, said, "This is just so wonderful. He was attending school. He wanted so much to eventually get a degree in computer science."

## Capital City Student Dialogue

College students make up more than a third of Tallahassee's population. This week, city leaders are reaching out to students, to let them know they care about their concerns.

**Reporter: Denise Wong**

EMAIL ADDRESS: DENISE.WONG@WCTV.TV

"Our university community makes up so much of Tallahassee and it's really important for the students to kind of have a say and really know what's going on within our own community here in Tallahassee. We live here," says Colin O'Connor, an FSU student who showed up at Tallahassee's City Hall to meet Mayor John Marks.

The Mayor's office held a panel discussion Tuesday night, to open up the dialogue between city leaders and college co-eds. It was open to the public and about three dozen students representing Florida State University, Florida A & M University, and [Tallahassee Community College](#) showed up.

The students sat face-to-face with eight officials from several city departments, including police chief Dennis Jones and Fire Chief Cindy Dick. There were also utility department and transportation department managers on hand. No question was off-limits, but some common themes kept coming up.

"We talked about towing, we talked about quite a few things," says Gallop Franklin, the student body president at FAMU. "Also, utilities - why they cost a lot more than they do at home, as well as public safety. We talked about Tennessee street and how college students might be a little intoxicated out there late at night and how we can probably deal with safety."

"The thing that I was most concerned about was public safety," says Ashley Nelson, a FAMU student. "And after talking with (the) police chief, he too was saying that he had the same concerns as I do."

"A lot of the public safety issues that we tackled, we'll be following up with as well and are going to be the type of issues I bring back to the student body at FAMU," says Gallop.

The Q-and-A style discussion allowed city officials to clear up some misconceptions.

One in particular: how FAMU Way is not the detour for construction on Gaines Street.

"We've been trying to get that message out there," says Roxanne Manning, director of Tallahassee's Community Redevelopment Agency. "I was a little concerned that it hadn't really permeated. So I was really happy to be able to clear that up."

"Now that we know who to talk to, we can do more," says Christopher Rich, student body secretary of TCC.

City officials are hoping they can do more of these forums in the future.

## Middle-earth Comes to Life this April at Tallahassee Community College

By Caroline Sturtz

TALLAHASSEE THEATER EXAMINER

"Even the smallest person can change the course of the future." This is a lesson well learned by Bilbo Baggins, the diminutive protagonist in J.R.R Tolkien's immortal tale *The Hobbit*. Sent against his will on a quest of enormous proportions, Bilbo discovers that the heart of a hero can be found in the most unlikely of creatures.

Middle-earth will be coming to life this April in Tallahassee Community College's Turner Auditorium. Heading up this immense undertaking is veteran director M. Derek Nieves. Nieves has been a staple of the Tallahassee theatre community, both onstage and off, for the past fifteen years, and he directed last year's hilarious production of *Greater Tuna* at TCC.

Tackling the technical side of things is Ken Frederickson, TheatreTCC's spectacular Production Manager. Frederickson has been the wizard responsible for TheatreTCC's amazing sets for the past nine seasons. But the question here is how to do justice to a whole world of characters so recently etched in the public consciousness by film director Peter Jackson? The answer? To pay homage to the stories' roots.

First published in 1937, *The Hobbit* included meticulous illustrations providing the reader with visual inspiration about the world and workings of Middle-earth. It is these illustrations that have provided much of the inspiration for the TheatreTCC technical designers. What will the final result hold? Audience members will simply have to venture to Turner Auditorium this spring to find out.

*The Hobbit* will be playing at Tallahassee Community College's Turner Auditorium April 8th-10th and 15th-17th at 8pm each evening.

Tickets are \$10 for Adults, \$7 for Seniors, \$5 for Students and Children, and TCC Students get in free with valid TCC ID. Single tickets to any of TheatreTCC's performances can be purchased in advance through the FSU Fine Arts Ticket Office - in person or by calling (850) 644-6500. Credit cards are accepted.



## Knight Foundation grant awarded

By Zoe Sharron

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

The Community Foundation of North Florida, in partnership with The Village Square, recently received a \$72,000 Knight Foundation Community Information Challenge grant to revitalize dialogue among Tallahassee residents around community issues. The project entitled, "We the People" was one of 24 ideas selected by Knight in a highly competitive national challenge to find creative ways to keep residents informed and engaged.

"We the People" will offer residents face-to-face forums on local and state issues designed to reconnect neighbors, such as "Dinner at the Square" and "Take-out Tuesday." Informal events will include a monthly "Politics, Partisans & A Pint" happy hour and "Sunday Night Supper Club." An online component of the project counters the growing anger evident across the Internet by inviting citizens to solve problems while they show the same respect they would to a neighbor at the grocery store or the mailbox.

In response to an increasingly hyper-partisan environment, the "We the People" project hopes to encourage civil communication in order to deal effectively with local and state issues. Historically,

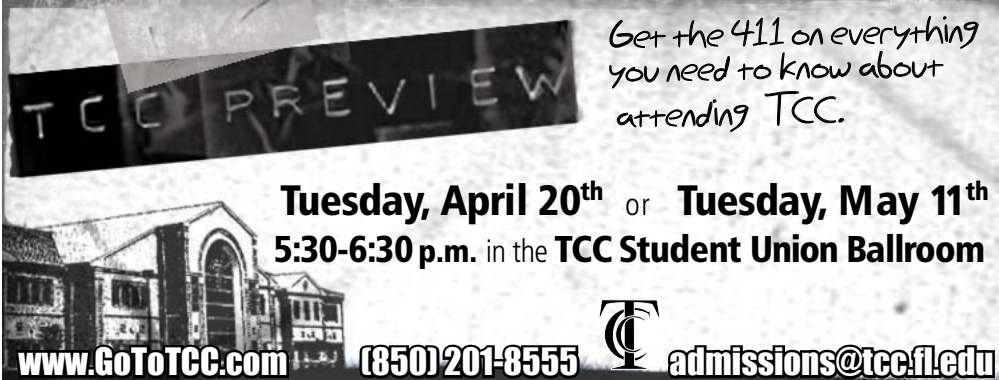
communities have bonded together and overcome their political differences. But ideology-based groups are on the rise and, as a result, our unique made-in-America social fabric is fraying. The "We the People" project is about reviving the traditional spirit of local neighborhood. There are a variety of ways residents can get involved, from hosting potluck dinners to sharing their knowledge online.

The Village Square was co-founded by former Tallahassee city commissioner Allan Katz, a Democrat, and his longtime friend Tallahassee Community College President Dr. Bill Law, a Republican. "The best ideas in a democracy come from engaged and informed citizenship," says Law. "This project will bring more light and less heat to problems ahead of us."

The Community Foundation of North Florida is a nonprofit public charity serving the 10-County Big Bend area by facilitating and promoting charitable giving and strengthening nonprofit organizations.

For more information, visit [www.tothevillagesquare.org](http://www.tothevillagesquare.org) or call Executive Director Liz Joyner at 264-8785.


## Lion Pride, Lincoln Log, Wolf Prints - March 2010



**TCC PREVIEW**

Get the 411 on everything you need to know about attending TCC.

**Tuesday, April 20<sup>th</sup>** or **Tuesday, May 11<sup>th</sup>**  
**5:30-6:30 p.m.** in the **TCC Student Union Ballroom**

[www.GoToTCC.com](http://www.GoToTCC.com) (850) 201-8555  [admissions@tcc.fl.edu](mailto:admissions@tcc.fl.edu)

## TCC President Bill Law to sit on panel with Dalai Lama

Reporter: Press Release

### PRESS RELEASE

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. (February 22, 2010) - Tallahassee Community College President Bill Law will sit on a panel of presidents and administrators from Florida colleges and universities when Broward College hosts His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama of Tibet at 2 p.m., Wednesday, February 24 on its central campus in Davie.

The Dalai Lama will discuss the "Responsibility of Higher Education in Today's Global Society."

Broward College President J. David Armstrong, Jr., will moderate the discussion with the following group of college presidents and administrators:

- Frank T. Brogan, Chancellor, State University System, Tallahassee
- Ray Ferrero, Jr., Chancellor and Chief Executive Officer, Nova Southeastern University,
- Fort Lauderdale
- Dr. George L. Hanbury II, President and Chief Operating

Officer, Nova Southeastern University,

- Fort Lauderdale
- Dr. E. Ann McGee, President, Seminole State College of Florida, Sanford
- Dr. Ed H. Moore, President, Independent Colleges and Universities of Florida, Tallahassee
- Dr. Bill Law, President, Tallahassee Community College, Tallahassee
- Dr. Kevin M. Ross, President, Lynn University, Boca Raton
- Dr. Sandra T. Thompson, Interim President, Florida Memorial University, Miami Gardens

On Tuesday, February 23, the College will host, together with Nova Southeastern University, a talk on "Universal Responsibility." An honorary Broward College baccalaureate degree will be conferred upon the Dalai Lama by President J. David Armstrong, Jr. and Jim Lansing, president of the faculty senate, at Tuesday's event.

## Big Bend briefs

TCC president to speak with Dalai Lama: Tallahassee Community College President Bill Law will be spending time with the Dalai Lama today and Wednesday. Law was invited to take part in a private breakfast with the Dalai Lama today at Broward College. At 2 p.m. Wednesday Law will sit on a panel of presidents and administrators from Florida colleges and universities when Broward College hosts the Dalai Lama in Davie. The Dalai Lama will discuss the "Responsibility of Higher Education in Today's Global Society."

## Invisible Children Tour comes to Tallahassee Community College

By Anamarie Shreeves  
DEMOCRAT WRITER

Tallahassee Community College's International Student Organization is hosting the Invisible Children Tour for the third year in a row.

Invisible Children is a series of screenings that began in 2003 when three San Diego filmmakers experienced "night commuting" while traveling to Sudan by way of North Uganda. "Night commuting" is when children leave their communities in groups at night and go to urban centers, which are considered safer than being at home with their families.

"The LRA (Lord's Resistance Army) begin attacking children at night," Faith Riley, a former children's tour leader, said. "They come to communities and force them to be soldiers."

Jessica Kellogg, vice-president of TCC's International Student Organization, said the screening will raise awareness about the children affected by the 24-year-old Ugandan war.

"They show a screening of what is going on in northern Uganda to spread awareness about the conflict," Kellogg said, "and also about aiding social and economic support."

Riley said this is the 10th international tour and they will show clips from "The Rough Cut," "The Rescue," "Go" and "Together we are Free."

Betty Jensen, international student services adviser, said the screening is an easy way to inform students on how they can help.

"After they show the films, students find out that they can buy merchandise or participate with the tours," Jensen said.

Jensen said the tours are becoming widely known, even on an international level.

"It's really catching on," Jensen said. "The whole idea of how this thing got started ... they're passionate about this."

### Additional Facts

IF YOU GO

What: Invisible Children Tour

When: 7-9 p.m. Thursday

Where: TCC's Workforce Development Building, Room 105

Cost: No fee to attend

More info: [www.invisiblechildren.com](http://www.invisiblechildren.com).

## WCTV - February 23, 2010

### TCC Hosts Tuskegee Airmen

REPORTER: LAUREN SEARCY

EMAIL ADDRESS: [LAUREN.SEARCY@WCTV.TV](mailto:LAUREN.SEARCY@WCTV.TV)

People at Tallahassee Community College hoping to inspire young African-American men welcomed a prestigious group to the college for a special presentation.

TCC's Black Male achievers hosted the "Tuskegee Airmen: A Tribute to Blacks In Aviation" event Tuesday, February 23rd.

Decorated airmen spoke of the trials and difficulties that faced them when they were trying to fight for their country and how it felt to work alongside men who were

making history. Now they hope the photos and stories will help guide young men.

"The important thing is for them to understand what it is to have loyalty, pride, love in the United States of America and things of that nature," said Maj Gen Titus Hall (RET), Tuskegee Airman.

Major General Hall says it's important for people in today's society to stand behind their country and the leaders that guide it, or else everything folks have worked so hard for in the past will be wasted.

## TCC's Bill Law gets an audience with the Dalai Lama

By Angeline J. Taylor  
DEMOCRAT STAFF WRITER

Most people only get a chance to study the Dalai Lama. Tallahassee Community College President Bill Law spoke with the Tibetan spiritual leader Wednesday.

Law was invited to attend some of the events the Dalai Lama was scheduled for in South Florida. Since Tuesday, the spiritual leader has addressed thousands in Boca Raton, Davie and Fort Lauderdale. By Wednesday afternoon, he sat cross-legged in a parlor-type chair as a panel of six college presidents at Broward College asked him questions.

Law called the Dalai Lama "very engaging (with a) wonderful belly laugh that just brings everybody else into it."

Law said, "He talks with fervor about American values of openness and liberty and transparency ... in a world that needs more of that."

Broward College President David Armstrong echoed Law's comments. Armstrong said the spiritual leader stressed for Americans to not get caught up in the recession and economy.

"(The Dalai Lama) said, 'America should not be so critical of itself. America should still be very proud,'" Armstrong said.

He stressed America as the "leaders of Democracy and freedom." His message garnered applause from the 1,500 students and faculty attending Broward College's forum, Armstrong said. Armstrong added that the spiritual leader emphasized the importance of global education inclusive of compassion, tolerance and peace.

The Dalai Lama fled Tibet in 1959, nine years after China sent communist forces to occupy the Himalayan region. Since then, he has led a self-declared government-in-exile in India.

## Tallahassee Democrat - March 2, 2010

### Our Opinion: Welcome, Legislature

#### Now to unearth the not-simple solutions

So it begins: The 2010 Florida Legislature convenes after weeks and months of preparation for one of the most challenging sessions that most, probably all, senators and representatives have faced during their terms in the statehouse.

After today's ceremonial launch, with the governor's State of the State address that lawmakers may or may not embrace, issues for immediate consideration include helping businesses save jobs, helping school districts do their best in everything from testing to teacher-to-pupil ratio, stabilizing property insurance markets, and attending to increasing numbers of frail, old, unemployed Floridians and children at risk. And all on a constrained budget.

Lawmaking is no job for sissies, but neither is it a job for party-liners — either party — who can't get the hang of open-minded compromise on issues that without negotiation remain immune to solution.

As Tallahassee Community College President Bill Law is fond of saying, "the easy problems have already been solved." While there will be a degree of election-year grandstanding, the dramas that come from situations reaching critical mass can be quite real. And there really aren't any silver bullets; most issues are enormously complex, and progress is made incrementally, step by step, sometimes over a period of years.

## Our Opinion: Welcome, Legislature....

*continued*

On Wednesday, Space Day, for example, lawmakers will be expected to deal with the shocking job losses downstate that are expected as a result of the cancellation of the spaceflight program, Constellation, at Kennedy Space Center. Throughout the session, other citizens and special interests will make their case for investing in our state for long-term results, which may not come to fruition in time for the upcoming election.

We're speaking of such things as investing in the economic engines known as our universities, or in mental health and addiction programs that help people reinvent their lives in productive ways and stay out of jails, or in environmental programs that sustain Florida's standing

as a beautiful tourism state, or in restoring, attracting and keeping a smart work force, both public and private.

The ball's in play; a \$63 billion budget must be signed, sealed and delivered to the governor in the next 60 days, and taxpayer accountability as well as the new buzz word, "transparency," are the name of the game.

Welcome to the capital city, ladies and gentlemen, Republicans, Democrats and centrists if there are any.

May each of you take your job seriously — and though it is tempting in this bewitching arena of money, power and prestige, maybe not so much yourselves.

**Tallahassee Democrat - March 3, 2010**

## Tough times cloud Crist's high points

DEMOCRAT STAFF REPORT

### K-12 Education

In Gov. Charlie Crist's address he said that in relation to K-12 education that "we must maintain our commitment to excellence in education by improving the teaching skills of our teachers and making our schools more accountable for student learning."

In response, Leon County Superintendent Jackie Pons said, "while we support higher standards, we also understand that proper funding for education is where it all starts."

Crist made no comment on how education will be funded in the 2010-2011 school year and whether there will be cuts or gains.

### Early Childhood Education

Gov. Charlie Crist made no comment on the state of early childhood education. In Crist's proposed budget, it was said that \$80.8 million would be allotted for Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) enrollment increases. The entire VPK budget, under Crist's plan, would be \$409.5 million, enough to have 152,795 kids in VPK. "My concern is that

young children are falling by the wayside," said Chris Duggan, CEO of Early Learning Coalition of the Big Bend. "K-12 and higher education has a much louder voice, but young children are the start of it all. It concerns me that young children are an afterthought."

### State Workers

The governor made no reference to state employees in his speech, except to say the Legislature should envision a government half as big but twice as effective.

"I think he was ducking state employee things," said Monica O'Neal, a Department of Children and Families management-review specialist. "You've got a group of people who haven't had a pay raise the entire time he's been governor and he could have said 'Thanks,' since he's leaving."

She said she was proud that Crist recognized a DCF worker, Val Dambreville, for his work on behalf of Haitian earthquake refugees.

### Economic Development

## Tough times cloud Crist's high points....

*continued*

"I tell you, I sure hope he is as right as he is hopeful," said Kim Williams, chairman of the Economic Development Council of Tallahassee/Leon County.

Crist called for funds to attract and grow innovation companies, pay for shovel-ready projects in rural areas, and boost degree production in technical fields. Williams wondered where those funds would come from in a budget already strained.

Still, promoting the emerging biotechnology field was encouraging. "I think that's great and the fact that we are such a huge player in the nation is due to our great university system, which we should all be proud of."

"What he said was a message on target. I hope we have the financial ability to carry it out," Williams said.

### Higher Education

Crist promised \$100 million to Florida's public universities and \$67 million to community colleges for the 2010-2011

fiscal year — a move that drew applause from college presidents.

The \$67 million would be to "offset tremendous enrollment growth" in community colleges, Crist said. [Tallahassee Community College](#) President Bill Law said the 28 colleges have grown "by about 29 percent (or 100,000 students) in the last three years."

The \$100 million for public universities was promised to increase the workforce in science, technology, engineering, math (STEM) and medicine.

Florida A&M University President James Ammons said his institution "provides diversity in these (STEM) areas that are so critical to the state's growth."

FSU President Eric Barron said it was his hope that Crist and state lawmakers prevent future budget cuts to public universities and add "more flexibility in how we can use dollars."