

# TALLAHASSEE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

*In the News*



**March 28, 2011 - April 22, 2011**



# TALLAHASSEE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

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## Campus Notes

### TALLAHASSEE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

TCC Foundation nominates Student Housing Solutions for national prize: The TCC Foundation has nominated Student Housing Solutions for a national philanthropic prize, the 2011 Council for Resource Development Benefactor Award. Over the last four years, Student Housing Solutions has supported TCC by providing housing scholarships annually to more than 30 international students. Student Housing Solutions' latest gift of \$64,680 brings its total support at TCC to more than \$250,000. The CRD Benefactor Award is the only national showcase to recognize donors to the nation's community colleges.

## TCC's Eagle Business Society marks tenth anniversary

### SPECIAL TO BUSINESS MATTERS

Tallahassee Community College's Eagle Business Society will celebrate its tenth anniversary at 11:15 a.m. Wednesday with guest speaker Sue Dick, president of the Greater Tallahassee Area Chamber of Commerce.

The event takes place at the Student Union Ballroom.

The society is best known for its Distinguished Lecture Series, which has brought a who's who of guest speakers to campus, including Jonathan Edwards, a gold medalist from the Sydney Olympics; Rick Kearney, CEO of Mainline Information Systems; Stephen Huggins, vice president of Morgan Stanley; Bob McClure, president of the James Madison Institute; and Beth Kirkland, executive director of the Economic Development Council of Tallahassee-Leon County.

Another past speaker in the series is the chamber's Sue Dick, who gave the inaugural address in 2001 when it started and will return to share her thoughts on Wednesday.

For more information on the Eagle Business Society, contact Edie Strickland at (850) 201-8350 or email [strickle@tcc.fl.edu](mailto:strickle@tcc.fl.edu).

## Festivities, fair skies draw locals, visitors downtown

BY DESIREE STENNETT

DEMOCRAT WRITER

Tallahassee residents came out by the thousands for the 43rd annual Springtime Tallahassee grand parade Saturday morning, reminding the downtown area that this city hosts more than just politicians and college students.

After a week of cool and dreary weather, parents dressed their children in shorts and sundresses to enjoy the music, floats, beads and all the candy they could catch. And those who participated in the parade did not disappoint the waiting spectators.

Some children were luckier than others, and walked away with pockets full of bubble gum and enough beads to match their body weight.

"It was a nice outing for families," said Courtney Mickens, a senior at Florida State University. "It showed you Tallahassee's cultural side, something you don't really get to see too often as a college student."

The parade attracted locals and visitors alike. Stasha Chaires and her son drove three hours from Warner Robins, Ga., to see the parade, and she said it was worth the trip.

"I'm going to come back again," she said.

She left with her son smiling as he held his loot – a bag from [Tallahassee Community College](#) filled with an assortment of candy, beads, Frisbees and wristbands.

It took about an hour and a half for all 115 parade entries to pass by. The floats varied from simple cars to an elaborate multi-car NASA-themed float, complete with fog machines and Katy Perry music blasting.

The costumed participants danced and smiled as they stopped to take pictures with excited children, many of whom were continuing traditions that started when their parents were children.

"It's exciting," said David Sullivan, a 38-year-old Tallahassee resident who has grown up celebrating the season with Springtime Tallahassee.

"I've been coming my whole life and I've been bringing my kids their whole lives too," he said.

Although many floats showed off themes like Pirates of the Caribbean that weren't around when the celebration began in 1968, horse-drawn carriages rode down Monroe Street as a nostalgic tribute to the festival's historic past.

True to tradition, the parade had a procession celebrating Andrew Jackson, featuring costumed participants acting out the roles of Jackson, his wife and his staff.

The real excitement came after the parade for the college crowd.

Students came out of the woodwork, stopping by the downtown area to see vendors selling everything from jewelry to jam and, most importantly, all the corn dogs, funnel cakes and fries they could eat.

"That's what we came out for," said Megan Bernat, an FSU junior who didn't go to the parade but made sure to stop by the Dog Et Al stand for a corn dog.

The celebration was big business for vendors who set up shop on downtown streets. Virginia Hartley, owner of Ginger's Jams, Jellies and Such, has been coming for the last four years.

"Every year we do better than the year before," she said over her large display of glass jelly-filled jars.

The members of Springtime Tallahassee Inc. were happy with turnout and called the festival a success.

"If everyone had a good time, it was absolutely successful," said John Sullivan, a member of the Andrew Jackson staff.

## FSU's Omega Psi Phi fraternity suspended until 2012, 4 members charged with grand theft

**Chad Squitier**

CONTRIBUTING WRITE

The Chi Theta chapter of the Omega Psi Phi fraternity at Florida State University has been suspended until 2012. The decision to suspend the fraternity, which was finalized in December following a hearing by the FSU Greek Conduct Board, was based on incriminating evidence indicating that several members of the fraternity forged documents in order to receive money in the form of tuition reimbursements after dropping classes.

The FSU Police Department says that some 15 students were involved, although there was only enough evidence to charge four students with grand theft. The four students charged, were also responsible for submitting a fraudulent refund authorization code-which allowed the students to receive reimbursement for the cost of the class. The students involved were forging drop/add permits in order to drop classes and receive reimbursement after the drop/add deadline. In some cases the students involved were attempting to receive refunds one and two years after they had taken the classes, with some of the courses being taken as far back as 2001.

"What they were doing was basically forging a signature saying that this person authorized them to drop the class," said Major Jim Russell of the Florida State University

Police Department in an earlier interview. "At which time, when you drop the class then you're eligible for a refund. That's when the money comes in."

The amount of money received by the four charged students totaled almost \$4,000, although they attempted to steal another \$1,769. One student alone received \$3563.63 and attempted to receive an additional \$911.25.

That particular student submitted 34 known drop permits, six known add permits and one forged TCC COOP form, to the registrar's office. A TCC COOP form is an agreement between [Tallahassee Community College](#) and FSU allowing a student at one institution to be allowed to enroll at the other institution.

Another student was able to receive over \$373 by submitting six fraudulent forms. A third student attempted to receive over \$858 by submitting eleven fraudulent forms but was unsuccessful in doing so. The record of the fourth student charged has been expunged.

Two of the students charged pleaded guilty to the charge of grand theft and both received 45 days of work at a jail camp as well as two years of probation. The other two students charged are still working their cases out in the court system.

**Tallahassee Democrat - April 4, 2011**

### Campus Notes

TALLAHASSEE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Publication promotes Gadsden organizations

[Tallahassee Community College](#) has worked with numerous Gadsden County organizations to develop a tool that provides information about many of the community's educational, social and health services in an easy-to-use format. A new and updated version of the Gadsden Grants, Programs and Services (GPS) publication will soon be available at schools, health department offices, Boys and Girls Clubs, Workforce Plus, TCC's Quincy House and other sites. The GPS tool identifies individuals who are eligible to receive certain services and lists the contact information for the service providers. It allows

community members to zero in on the specific services they seek, such as tutoring, health care, college and career planning or workforce education.

Cheerleading team scores top honors: TCC's cheerleading team brought home the top prize in the Level 6 Co-Ed Division at the American Open National Championship, held the last weekend in March in Orlando. The team also received the Grand Champions award, an honor given to the highest-scoring team in the overall division. TCC's cheerleading team is under the direction of coach Dana Brown. TCC will honor the cheerleading team with a reception in the Lifetime Sports Complex from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. today.

## Theatre TCC! Wraps up 2010-11 Season With “Chicago”

REPORTER: TCC RELEASE

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. (April 4, 2011) –

Tallahassee Community College’s Theatre TCC! will kick off its final performance of the 2010-11 season at 8 p.m., Thursday, April 7 when the Tony award-winning musical “Chicago” hits the stage at Turner Auditorium.

Follow Roxie Hart and Velma Kelly as they compete for both the spotlight and headlines. With dazzling tunes such as Cell Block Tango, Me and My Baby and All That Jazz, this is one wildly entertaining musical that has wowed audiences around the world.

Additional show times for “Chicago” are 8 p.m., Friday and Saturday, April 8 and 9 and Thursday-Saturday, April 14-16. All performances will be held in Turner Auditorium, located inside TCC’s Fine and Performing Arts Center.

Students, faculty and staff who have a valid TCC ID are admitted to Theatre TCC! performances free of charge. Additionally, faculty and staff can bring a guest at no cost.

Tickets for “Chicago” can be purchased in advance by calling the FSU Fine Arts Ticket Office at (850) 644-6500, online at [www.tickets.fsu.edu](http://www.tickets.fsu.edu) or at the door the night of the show (cash or check only). The Turner Auditorium Box Office opens at 7 p.m.

Tickets for the general public are \$10 for adults, \$7 for senior citizens and \$5 for children and non-TCC students. Groups of 10 or more also qualify for a discount: \$5 per ticket for adults and senior citizens, \$3 per ticket for children and non-TCC students. Special event nights are also available to groups.

For more information, call Eva Nielsen-Parks at (850) 201-9882 or log on to [www.tcc.fl.edu/theatretcc](http://www.tcc.fl.edu/theatretcc).

## Update: TCC Foundation hosts fun fundraiser

AMANDA NALLEY  
DEMOCRAT STAFF WRITER

Tossing water balloons and hunting down clues were just a few of the tasks six Tallahassee teams had to complete Sunday as part of the [Tallahassee Community College Foundation's fundraiser](#), the Capital City Caper.

Inspired by the television show the "Amazing Race," the teams met at the Mary Brogan Museum of Art and Science before embarking on a three-hour journey around town via limousine. Along the way the teams stopped at six locations, where they completed tasks including deciphering clues at Mission San Luis or bowling at Capital City Lanes.

"It's so interesting to learn about the businesses we go to, to really see what they do so that we can actually take that information and maybe go back," said Polly White, head of the Capital Health Plan team, which won the overall award this year and last. "We want to go down as the team to beat."

Pennington Law Firm, which entered two teams, took home the best costume award with their 1980s-themed 215 Jump Street outfits. Cards for a Cure, who played for the Tallahassee Memorial Hospital and the TMH Foundation, won in the Scotland Yard division (teams were separated into two divisions based on their monetary sponsorship amount.)

Other teams included the Tallahassee Democrat and a group of private sleuths, most of whom had some relation to TCC.

"Where else do you get to dress up in crazy costumes,

ride in a limousine and get to solve clues?" asked Al James, founder and owner of Code Red Caper, the group that hosts the team-building/fundraising events across the United States.

The more than \$8,000 raised at the event will go toward completing the \$32 million Ghazvini Center for Health Care Education, a new [Tallahassee Community College](#) building near Tallahassee Memorial Hospital that will house seven of the school's health-care programs. The school's two dental programs will take over the current on-campus health-care facilities. The building is expected to be complete this May with classes beginning in fall.

"We offer programs where students can get a certificate in a few years and get into the workforce," said Ranie Thompson, TCC Foundation development officer. "This building enables students to train in the medical corridor."

To donate to the project or to learn more call 201-8580 or visit [tcc.fl.edu/foundation](http://tcc.fl.edu/foundation).

### Earlier Story

Sleuth's will abound in Tallahassee today as the annual Capital City Caper gets underway.

The community fund raising event involves teams of eight traveling around town in limousines as they embark on a scavenger hunt. Hosted by [Tallahassee Community College](#), the event benefits The Ghazvini Center. To learn more visit [capitalcitycaper.com](http://capitalcitycaper.com) or call 201-6065.

## Campus Notes

### TALLAHASSEE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Preview TCC event today: TCC is opening its doors to the community for its Preview TCC event from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. today. Preview TCC will give people an opportunity to meet with TCC representatives and learn about the application process, financial aid, scholarships, campus life and the college's degree, certificate and workforce training programs. The event will take place in TCC's Student Union Ballroom. Reservations are not required. For more information on Preview TCC, call (850) 201-8555 or email [admissions@tcc.fl.edu](mailto:admissions@tcc.fl.edu).

## TCC students celebrate diversity

Reported by: **Patty Santos**

EMAIL: PSANTOS@WTXL.TV

TALLAHASSEE, FL. Members of the International Student Organization at [Tallahassee Community College](#) hope an annual event will bring unity and understanding.

The annual International Festival showcased 20 different countries, through music, education and food.

Event coordinators say they want to bring global awareness to students and staff on campus. The event was held the TCC's Intramural Field.

The event also held a fundraiser for the victims of Japan's disaster.

Times WV - April 16, 2011

## HERTZEL COLUMN: McCartney inspired by late brother

By **Bob Hertz**

TIMES WEST VIRGINIAN

MORGANTOWN — The football floated softly through the Friday morning air, having left the hands of West Virginia University quarterback Geno Smith with a feathery touch. In the end zone, Smith's former high school teammate, Ivan McCartney, was being smothered by cornerback Avery Williams.

Two men, one football, suspended in the air as the two went skyward, each with a claim on the football.

... We interrupt this scene momentarily to go back in time, 21 hours back. The scene was a different one, the Jerry West Lounge within the Coliseum where a group of seven football players and a soccer player had gathered along with an audience of professors, advisors, media and even athletic director Oliver Luck.

It was the semi-annual presentation of inspiration talks, entitled "Student Athletes Speak Out," the highlight of a class by speech professor Dr. Carolyn P. Atkins that takes West Virginia athletes to Children's Hospital and local classrooms to tell inspiring stories to Morgantown's young people.

On this day Ivan McCartney had his feet firmly planted on the ground, for his was among the most poignant of tales for it told of brotherly love, a love that survives on despite the most unspeakable of tragedies.

First, let us take you away from the roar of the crowd and put McCartney in his natural habitat, which was inner city Miami, an area where the only sand covers crime scenes, where pina colodas are replaced by bottles of Ripple in

brown paper bags.

This was the Miami McCartney knew in his youth.

"Some call it the cocaine capital of the world," McCarty told the group. "When I was about 11, my dad took me to choir practice. The church wasn't open, so we were waiting in his truck. Right in front of us we saw a drug bust taking place ... complete with a SWAT team and the FBI.

"It wasn't the first time I had witnessed that, but it was the most comprehensive I had ever seen."

McCartney even could recall what went through his mind at the moment.

"I remember thinking ... that is not the life I want," he said.

He got involved in sports, playing football in the street the way kids will, and it was obvious immediately that he had an abundance of natural talent, just as did his favorite player in the group, his older brother, Jarrett.

"Let me tell you about him," McCartney said, wearing a look of pride in his eyes. "Jarrett was the ultimate lady's man. He always had to look good, and he prided himself on his appearance.

"We had the typical sibling rivalry since he was only two years older than I, but when we played together, he made it fun."



## HERTZEL COLUMN: McCartney inspired by late brother...

*continued*

It was a close, warm relationship.

But there were storm clouds in the Florida sky.

"When he was a sophomore, he and his friends were walking home from school," McCartney said. "A rottweiler chased them, and when they all ran in different directions, my brother ran out into the street."

A city bus was bearing down on him and could not stop. According to McCartney, his brother was knocked 20 feet away.

"He broke ribs, both legs, and his collarbone; in addition, he had a collapsed lung. He was in the hospital for 3 months and in a wheel chair for another 3 months," McCartney said.

Time, they say, heals all wounds and according to McCartney, "Within a year, he was back on the streets playing football and chasing girls."

It would be nice to end this tale here, but there is more. Jarrett went on to [Tallahassee Community College](#), where he was accidentally shot and killed.

"He was cool, down to earth, a very smart kid, never got in trouble," McCartney said of his brother following his speech. "He was just in the wrong place at the wrong time."

The news of his death was devastating when it hit the family.

"We took it hard," McCartney admitted, "but we were able to deal with his death because we knew he was in a better place. When people say they can't believe he is gone, I say to myself, 'They just don't know that he never left.'"

Indeed, he is pushing McCartney on toward accomplishing his goals.

"He is always with me ... inspiring me to persevere and never give up ... like he never gave up after the bus accident," he said. "I never give up no matter how bad things are. What he went through is way harder than what I went through, and if he could do it, I can get through this."

... We return you now to the practice field, the ball coming down, Williams in perfect position, McCartney skying.

You probably know who came down with the football by now. It was dual possession, Ivan McCartney and his brother, Jarrett.

Email Bob Hertzal at [bhertzal@hotmail.com](mailto:bhertzal@hotmail.com).

## Panacea welcome center hosting reception for TCC's Jim Murdaugh

BY BONNIE HOLUB

WAKULLA COUNTY CORRESPONDENT

The Wakulla County Welcome Center in Panacea will soon welcome the Tallahassee District Board of Trustees and Tallahassee Community College President Jim Murdaugh to the county.

The Board of Trustees is holding its monthly meeting at the welcome center April 26. The meeting is 2:30 to 5 p.m., followed immediately by a "Meet the President" reception.

The purpose of the reception is for community members to meet the new president of TCC and for him to meet Wakulla's community in order to strengthen TCC's service to Wakulla.

"I look forward to meeting more people in the communities we serve," Murdaugh said. "I look forward to gaining feedback to continue to strengthen the relationships between the community and the college."

A little pre-meet-the-president information: Murdaugh took the helm as TCC's sixth president last November, following the tenure of Bill Law, now president of St. Petersburg College. Although Murdaugh is TCC's new president, he is not new to TCC. He previously served as assistant vice president and directed TCC's Gadsden County-based Florida Public Safety Institute/Pat Thomas Law Enforcement Academy, a post he held since joining TCC in 1999. He also served as TCC's liaison with Gadsden County, assisting the community with programs, services and grants on behalf of TCC.

Before joining TCC, Murdaugh spent 12 years at the Florida Department of Law Enforcement. He holds bachelor's and master's degrees in criminology and a doctorate in public administration from Florida State University.

Murdaugh served a total of 30 years in the United States Air Force Reserve, including active duty service during both Gulf Wars. He retired in 2004 as a lieutenant colonel.

TCC and Wakulla County already have a strong partnership, as evidenced by the 60 percent of Wakulla High School graduates who attend TCC each year.

Additionally, in January 2006, TCC opened the Wakulla Center (of which I am director) in Crawfordville to meet workforce development needs in the county.

TCC Wakulla Center offers classes to adult learners to improve employment skills and job opportunities. It also provides after-school tutoring to Wakulla students. And in response to the Deepwater Horizon oil spill April 20 of last year, the TCC Board of Trustees allotted \$50,000 to help those in Wakulla affected by the disaster. Two Wakulla residents, Allison DeFoor and Frank Messersmith, represent Wakulla County on the Board of Trustees.

A short program at the event will include remarks by DeFoor, Murdaugh and three members of the Wakulla community who have attended TCC's programs or classes.

Wakulla residents will have the opportunity to enter a drawing to win one of two \$500 TCC scholarships to be awarded at the close of the evening. Attendees will have the opportunity to learn what TCC has to offer at the Wakulla Center and on the main campus by visiting information tables at the reception.

The Wakulla County Welcome Center was chosen as the site of the event because of its location overlooking Dickerson Bay, which provides a view indicative of our coastal community.

Sammy Tedder, a Wakulla composer and musician, will perform some of his original compositions on saxophone and flute at the gathering. Tedder handcrafts flutes from local river cane and his music often mimics the natural sounds of Wakulla's wilderness. Seafood bites prepared by Posey's Steam Room in Panacea will be served, literally adding more local flavor to the event.

Come to the Wakulla County Welcome Center on April 26. Marvel at the bayside view, listen to the mystical sounds of Sammy's sax and flute, introduce yourself to President Murdaugh and enjoy the camaraderie of the TCC – Wakulla County community connection.

The Wakulla County Welcome Center is located at 1493 Coastal Highway 98 in Panacea, about three miles south of the Highway 319 and Highway 98 intersection in Medart. For information, call the TCC Wakulla Center at 922-6290.

A similar "Meet the President" event will be held in Leon County, on the main campus of TCC on May 16.

## Campus Notes

### TALLAHASSEE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Part-Time Job Fair coming Wednesday: TCC is hosting its Part-Time Job Fair from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Wednesday to help students connect with potential employers. The fair, held in the Student Union Ballroom, will be full of representatives from local businesses looking to recruit students for part-time and seasonal positions. Students are encouraged to dress in professional business attire in order to make good first impressions with potential employers, yet anyone is welcome to attend. It is also recommended that job-seekers bring copies of their resume. The event is free for TCC students and members of the community. Employers interested in participating should contact Christy Mantzanas at (850) 201-6172.

## Tallahassee Democrat - April 18, 2011

### TCC students celebrate diversity

BY AMANDA NALLEY

DEMOCRAT STAFF WRITE

For the first time in more than 20 years, Matthew Whittle played baseball.

In 1985, Whittle was bicycling in Hawaii when he was hit by a car, leaving him with a severe spinal cord injury. Whittle was one of the many who attended SportsAbility, a four-day event featuring a series of indoor and outdoor recreational opportunities for people of all abilities.

"This has been a weekend of firsts," said Whittle, who for the first time was able to play baseball with his stepson, Caleb Babb. "Without it, I wouldn't have kayaked or been on a horse."

Created by Florida Disabled Outdoors Association, the event included a banquet, an indoor activity day in partnership with [Tallahassee Community College](#), an outdoor day in partnership with the Florida State Park System, and Sunday's event, where participants learn about Miracle Sports activities such as kickball and soccer and Miracle League — a baseball program.

#### RELATED

Sportsability at Miracle Field

"This is a way to motivate people to become more active," said David Jones, president and founder of the Florida Disabled Outdoors Association (FDOA). "We eliminate the barriers."

Sunday's activities took place at Miracle Field, a

rubberized playing field, in Messer Park.

"I love it because it gives them a chance to hear people cheer for them," said Sheila Williams, mother of Aerron and Shawntra Williams. "It helps boost their self esteem and makes them strive to do more."

Jones created FDOA in 1990 after suffering a spinal cord injury during a hunting accident. During his rehabilitation, he participated in therapeutic recreation therapy.

"I looked at it as an hour a day to have fun," he said. "I didn't realize how important it was at first. It was a less-structured time to meet other patients and socialize while developing skills such as balance and hand-eye coordination."

Jones and a few friends decided to host a water-skiing clinic for people with spinal cord injuries shortly after the birth of FDOA.

The clinic was so successful that he decided to do it again the following year with additional activities.

"We are growing every year," he said. "Once we get them in here, they are hooked. When you show up, we don't care whether you have a disability or not, because we are all the same."

To learn more, visit [FDOA.org](#) or call 201-2944.

## TCC Idol unfolds a lot like a certain TV show

BY KENDRA ANDERSON  
DEMOCRAT WRITER

What started off as a classroom assignment for Tallahassee Community College students in Shauna Smith's literature class has turned into TCC Idol.

The talent competition, a spinoff from the hit TV singing competition "American Idol," is headed into its fourth year.

"It's a great way to bring the students together and celebrate the end of the academic school year," said Smith, a professor in TCC's Communications and Humanities Department. "There is a wide variety of talents such as dance, singing, spoken words and poetry."

TCC Idol will include 15 acts from students at TCC, Florida A&M and Florida State universities.

Robin Malone, a former TCC student and winner of the first TCC Idol competition in 2008, will serve as one of the judges.

"It's a great opportunity for young people to showcase their talents," said Malone, now a student at FSU.

Malone also will be doing a featured performance of her song "Cash Right," which has been played on FAMU's campus radio 90.5.

The talent showcase will include other featured performances, Smith added, as well as prizes for the audience.

"I love Mrs. Smith for taking the time to nurture our talents and provide us with a venue to showcase it," Malone said.

The event is free to the public, and will be held at 6 p.m. Friday in TCC's Turner Auditorium, located inside the College's Fine and Performing Arts Center.

## Florida Tribune - April 19, 2011

### Auditors slam program that is supposed to keep tabs on private colleges

By: Gary Fineout

A state office responsible for keeping tabs on vocational, technical and other small private colleges across the state has come under fire in a new state audit.

State auditors found examples where the Commission for Independent Education did not always check into schools that shut down, failed to do background security checks on contracted employees, and did not adequately track complaints made against schools by students.

Education Commissioner Eric Smith did not dispute the main findings of the audit done by the Auditor General's office. Instead Smith's office said it was putting in new procedures to respond to the numerous criticisms by state auditors.

The commission is responsible for licensing and keeping tabs on a wide range of schools, from those that train hair stylists to those schools such as Ava Maria University. The commission does not regulate private not-for-profit

schools such as the University of Miami or Flagler College.

Auditors found that the commission did not always timely check out complaints against the schools, finding that it took as long as 447 days to resolve one complaint. Auditors also found examples where there was no documentation on how a complaint was resolved.

The audit also notes that the commission did not turn over to prosecutors information on two school closings that did not appear to follow state law. Auditors also rapped the commission for failing to send someone to investigate school closings even though it is required to do so.

"The commission's failure to take appropriate action upon notification of a program termination or school closing limits its ability to ensure that schools comply with law and rules and the students affected have been treated fairly," states the audit.

## Auditors slam program that is supposed to keep tabs on private colleges....

*continued*

The audit also notes that commission hired staff through [Tallahassee Community College](#) where it did not subject them to background security screenings over a nearly two year period. The audit response notes that the commission shifted its staff to Department of Education employees and that these employees had been screened.

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**Tallahassee Democrat - April 21, 2011**

## FAMU, TCC to partner with chamber on services for local businesses

**BY DAVE HODGES**  
BUSINESS MATTERS EDITOR

Two more business partners joined forces today with the Greater Tallahassee Chamber of Commerce to provide support and tools for local companies, including startup firms.

[Tallahassee Community College](#) and the Small Business Development Center at Florida A&M University announced their plans to work with the chamber and its members to offer more resources for local firms.

"The chamber will partner with Tallahassee Community College on a professional development series. It will help create an employee base in line with our needs," said chamber Chairman Todd Sperry.

TCC President Jim Murdaugh said the college will use its Center for Workforce Development to create the new training opportunities for both businesses and nonprofits in the community. TCC will provide a series of seminars called "Employee Training Solutions" that members can use for their workers. Online training is planned as well.

"For us this represents an opportunity to partner with the Chamber of Commerce here to help make sure that this community remains economically strong as we go through some of the tough times we're involved in," Murdaugh said.

For small business and startup enterprises. FAMU's Small Business Development Center will be teaching the basics of getting a company off the ground, said Shawnta Friday-Stroud, dean of FAMU's School of Business and Industry.

Entrepreneurs will have access to free counseling and workshops at the chamber's downtown office at 115 N. Calhoun St., which will be an SBDC satellite location.

"The counseling will cover topics in business planning, financial analysis, marketing, social media tips, accounting, cash flow projections and new business feasibility," she said. There will be additional offerings for established companies.

## Tallahassee Chamber Announces Partnerships to Provide Additional Resources

Reporter: Tallahassee Chamber Press Release

Tallahassee, FL. – As the Greater Tallahassee Chamber of Commerce strives to provide its members and the business community with the resources, tools and opportunities needed to thrive, the organization is adding two notable partnerships with [Tallahassee Community College](#) and the Small Business Development Center at FAMU to its offerings.

Understanding the importance of providing training solutions to improve the quality and skill set of employees, the Chamber will partner with Tallahassee Community College (TCC) on a Professional Development Series that will help members create an employee base in line with their needs.

“TCC wants to do its part to meet the needs of our existing businesses and non-profit providers,” said TCC President Jim Murdaugh. “Through this partnership, businesses will be able to help their teams gain knowledge, improve quality performance, increase productivity and succeed in today’s competitive business world.”

As sole provider of Employee Training Solutions for the Chamber, TCC will offer Chamber members the Professional Development Series comprised of complimentary classroom training each quarter, as well as a semester of online classes. Additional training will be available year-round with members receiving discounted prices on much sought after classes.

“We understand that in addition to the networking and advocacy that our member businesses receive, that they are also seeking tangible tools and resources,” said Sue Dick, president of the Chamber. “TCC’s training is offered in a variety of formats at multiple times, allowing members to choose the option that works best for their schedules.”

The Chamber has also identified the need for additional resources to support individuals who have questions or need assistance in starting or growing their businesses.

Through the Chamber’s partnership with the Small

Business Development Center, the business community will receive free counseling services and workshops from a satellite location within the Chamber’s conveniently located downtown office. Personal counseling will cover topics that include business planning, financial analysis, marketing, accounting, cash flow projections and new business feasibility. Ongoing workshops will focus on topics ranging from social media tips and tax guidance, to non-profit solutions and general business advice.

“We want to help entrepreneurs and new business owners explore and evaluate their businesses and personal goals, then build comprehensive and thoughtful business plans that will assist in achieving these,” said Shawnta Friday-Stroud, dean of FAMU’s School of Business and Industry. “The SBDC also wants to help current businesses sustain and succeed by providing opportunities for continuous learning.”

TCC and SBDC will become part of the Chamber’s portfolio of partnerships and Chamber member benefits. Current partners include The Jim Moran Institute for Global Entrepreneurship that currently provides members with a Lunch & Learn series and confidential consultations with its associate director, Dr. Betty Presnel. The Big Bend Society for Human Resource Management (BBSHRM) will also continue to offer one-on-one expert HR advice to help protect companies and employees.

The business community will also continue to receive technical assistance and advocacy from Chamber affiliate, the Economic Development Council of Tallahassee/ Leon County (EDC). The EDC’s tools for elevating our community’s businesses are provided through its First Focus on Local Business initiative that offers retention and expansion support for local businesses, regardless of industry sector, including international business development support; technical assistance for companies that have grown past the startup phase and need more tools to grow; as well as roundtables to support targeted industry sectors that will provide for a diversified and sustainable regional economy.

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