

TALLAHASSEE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

In the News



January 18, 2013- February 11, 2013

TALLAHASSEE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

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TALLAHASSEE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

In the News



Electronic Media

- December 29, 2012, WCTV – feature on men’s basketball player Trevor McDade was picked up by CBS affiliates in San Antonio, Flint (Mich.), Huntsville (Ala.) and Wichita (Kan.)
- January 8, WCTV – Mary Brogan Museum hangs on by one vote
- January 15, WCTV/WTXL– MLK Brunch at TCC

Wakulla receives gifts, funds worth celebrating

Bonnie Holub

Christmas has come and gone, leaving folks to enjoy new gifts and looking forward to the excitement and possibilities that come with a new year. And so it is with Wakulla County. Over the past year, Wakulla County received several large gifts filled with the promise of educational, recreational and economic opportunities for years to come.

First is the \$4.5-million allocation from the 2012 Florida Legislature to [Tallahassee Community College](#) to establish the Wakulla Environmental Institute. The Executive Director for the WEI, Bob Ballard, was appointed in July and is working to create a "world class" environmental institute near Crawfordville. The WEI is already offering online courses which can lead to a water quality technician certificate or environmental science technology A.S. degree. Future plans include a new [TCC](#) WEI facility, which will offer a range of traditional classroom studies, online classes, field experiences, ecotourism activities and other services. [TCC](#) recently earmarked an additional \$382,000 for the purchase of land for the institute adjacent to Highway 319, south of Crawfordville. The initial architectural drawings for the facility illustrate a Florida "cracker style" building apropos to the wooded landscape which will be built to serve as a model for energy efficiency.

[TCC](#) was awarded \$670,000 in September from the Florida Department of Education to support a 21st Century Community Learning Center Program in Wakulla County for the 2012-2013 school year. And more funds are expected. The total award will be close to \$3 million over a five-year project period. The funds are being used to provide children with additional academic and personal enrichment activities through after-school and summer programs. The program serves PreK through middle school students and incorporates strategies to increase parent involvement in their children's studies. The 21st CCLC is a collaborative effort among [TCC](#), Wakulla County Schools, Wakulla Christian School and Communities in Schools of Florida. Over 120 Wakulla students are currently receiving after school academic enhancement through the program.

In November, \$500,000 was awarded to the Wakulla County Tourist Development Council from the Gulf Tourism and Seafood Promotional Fund, a fund supported by BP in response to the Deep Water Horizon Oil Spill. "The Wakulla Tourist Development Council is looking forward to working with our local tourism and seafood industry partners to make the most of this rare funding opportunity," said Wakulla TDC Director Pam Portwood.

The money is being used to accelerate Wakulla's tourism and seafood marketing campaigns and promote a brand for Wakulla's seafood products, "Fresh from Wakulla," similar to the name recognition for "Vidalia" onions and "Ruskin" tomatoes. With these funds, the WTDC will implement sophisticated and far-reaching marketing strategies to make Wakulla, and our resources, more recognizable across the state and country. And maybe as a side benefit, the "Wakooloo" pronunciation will disappear. Dare we hope?

And then there's a unique gift of anticipation. You probably know the feeling. As a child you knew Santa was coming and you anticipated he would leave a treat in your stocking and something really special under the tree ... if you were good, of course. You didn't know what you were going to get, although you believed and hoped with all your heart, it would be what you asked for. You might say there is a similar feeling of anticipation in Wakulla these days. Although it is too early to tell what gifts will materialize through the RESTORE ACT of 2012, (Resources and Ecosystems Sustainability, Tourist Opportunities and Revived Economies of the Gulf Coast States Act of 2012) the county is preparing for the possibility of receiving \$2 million to \$20 million worth of project funding, according to David Edwards, Wakulla County Administrator. And maybe even more. Edwards noted that if these funds are awarded, they won't necessarily be awarded directly to Wakulla County, but could fund a range of projects that directly benefit Wakulla County and surrounding areas.

The Wakulla County RESTORE Act Advisory Committee was formed last month to receive project proposal applications and advise the Wakulla County Board of County Commissioners on projects for potential RESTORE Act funding. The application process has not yet been established, but will be implemented if and when the funds are available.

Stay tuned to Wakulla County as these opportunities grow with the new year. Wishing you and yours a healthy, happy and prosperous 2013.

TCC selected for Plus 50 program

TCC

• **Tallahassee Community College** was recently chosen to join the Plus 50 Encore Completion Program, a national effort to train 10,000 baby boomers for new jobs in health care, education and social services. The program is sponsored by the American Association of Community Colleges. **TCC** will assist adults age 50 and over in completing degrees or certificates in high-demand occupations that give back to the community – such careers as nurses, radiological technicians, dental hygienists, diagnostic medical sonographers and other specialties.

TCC is one of 17 colleges recently selected for the project. The Plus 50 Encore Completion Program is funded with a \$3.2 million grant to AACC provided by Deerbrook Charitable Trust. For more information about the Plus 50 Initiative at AACC, see plus50.aacc.nche.edu

WCTV- January 23, 2013

Texas Campus Shooting Prompts Safety Questions in Our Area

Some might consider the meeting between school reps and the senate education appropriations committee to discuss campus safety funding a strange coincidence. It came just one day after a Texas college campus shooting injured three people.

“Unfortunately it’s not odd, in the world of law enforcement and just the world we live in, these types of situations can happen at any moment, any day, and any time,” said Florida State police chief David Perry.

Chief Perry says those factors, along with the openness of many college campuses increase the need for campus safety. **Tallahassee Community College** president Jim Murdaugh spoke with the committee on how money could be used to provide guidance services for students who show emotional or behavioral warning signs.

“There’s non-recurring issues that can be dealt with and there’s recurring issues that can be dealt with in terms of the staffing that we can provide for mental health services and other services for students,” said Murdaugh.

Technological efforts, like the emergency blue light systems that are commonplace on campuses across the country, can help. But Perry says that state money for more manpower would go a long way in keeping students safe.

“One officer for every 600 students. That’s a measure that the state university chiefs hope will still be reviewed and adopted in time when budgets do allow,” said Perry.

The committee will determine how much more funding to provide, if any, after Governor Rick Scott releases his budget for the state.

WCTV- January 23, 2013

Campus notes: TCC to host a joint ‘majors fair’

The University Center at **Tallahassee Community College** will hold a joint Majors Fair from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Tuesday.

Students can visit **TCC**’s Student Union Ballroom and talk with representatives from **TCC**’s five university partners: Barry University, Flagler College, Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, Saint Leo University and Thomas University. The event will provide students with information on next steps after earning an A.A. degree at **TCC**., including how to enroll and complete a bachelor’s degree in programs offered through the University Center at **TCC**. No appointment is necessary.

Annual Black History Month calendar honors citizens, inspires youth to follow dreams

Annual Black History Month calendar honors citizens, inspires youth to follow dreams

JORDAN CULVER

Cherry Hall Alexander said when she first started honoring local black leaders in a calendar 13 years ago she wanted to show young black children they had heroes close to home.

Thirteen years later and it's safe to say she's making an impact on her targeted audience — just ask [Tallahassee Community College](#) freshman Delaitre Hollinger.

Hollinger has been busy since the start of 2012. He made a name for himself as an activist and ran for City Commission Seat 1. He said he plans to go to Florida A&M University and complete a degree in journalism next. He credited Alexander's yearly calendars, which he has been collecting since fourth grade, for starting him on the right path.

"Being here tonight and being honored among so many people here in the community is really surreal for me," he said. "The calendar is doing what it's supposed to do. It's inspiring the youth of the community to be all they can be."

Hollinger was one of 14 black leaders honored during an unveiling Monday evening for the 2013 Cherry Alexander African-American History Calendar. The event, which also served as a kick-off for Black History Month in February, brought together all 14 honorees as well as a few faces from previous calendars.

The calendar's theme this year is "At the Crossroads of Freedom and Equality: 150 Years of Progression and Advancement." Alexander said putting local faces in the calendar is critical to making it relevant to students in the Big Bend region. Barack Obama might be in the White House, she said, but that is in Washington. Local heroes are what make the calendar special.

"This is a way to help our young people dream to do whatever they want to do whenever they want to do it," she said. "That's the truth. Just take your time and do it."

Honorees were treated to performances from [TCC's](#) African Drum and Dance Ensemble and Ruediger Elementary School's Mathematical Drummers and Dancers. Rep. Alan Williams said the calendar is a special part of the community he's honored to be a part of.

"I don't know if I'm quite deserving of it," Williams said. "But it's something I'll use to continue to drive me to make sure I'm doing all I can to not only represent black members of our community but all Floridians."

FAMU interim president Larry Robinson said the calendar should serve as a reminder to continue community service.

"Community service is one of the greatest pillars we have at (FAMU) and our students are some of the most socially conscious in the world," he said. "To see that I'm being acknowledged for my community service will help them see how important it is."

13th Annual Cherry Alexander African-American History Calendar Unveiled at TCC

Gina Pitisci

January 28, 2013 - Fourteen individuals will be honored by [Tallahassee Community College](#) when the College unveils its 13th annual Cherry Alexander African-American History Calendar. The 7 p.m. ceremony, to be held in Turner Auditorium, will kick off [TCC's](#) month-long celebration of Black History Month. Turner Auditorium is located inside the College's Fine and Performing Arts Center.

Each year, the calendar showcases African-Americans who have made significant contributions in Leon, Gadsden and/or Wakulla counties. The 2013 calendar theme is "At the Crossroads of Freedom and Equality: 150 Years of Progression and Advancement."

The 2013 calendar honorees are:

- * Mrs. Everline Brown - board member of Big Bend Chattahoochee Boys and Girls Club, served on Gadsden County's first Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration Committee
- * Michael Edwards - sophomore architecture and civil engineering major at [Tallahassee Community College](#), serves as chair of the Student Organization Council
- * Mr. Rudolph (Rudy) Ferguson, Sr. - pastor of the New Birth Tabernacle of Praise in Tallahassee
- * Dr. Irene and Mr. Roland Gaines - graduates of Florida A&M, both have spent their careers enriching the lives of others through the empowerment of education
- * Mrs. Dilcy Hogan - well-known for her role with the newspaper/magazine People in the Community, and Nattash Graphics and Communications
- * Mr. Delaitre Hollinger - civil rights advocate and journalist
- * Mr. Spencer Ingram - managing principal of Ingram Accounting and Consulting, LLC
- * Mr. Vincent Irving - mentor and motivator, S.W.A.T. coordinator at Leon County Health Department
- * Dr. Clarence Jackson - pastor of Greater Bethel Missionary Baptist Church in Chattahoochee, Fla.
- * Dr. Larry Robinson - interim president, Florida A&M University
- * LTC. Robert L. Rollins - passed away in 2011, served his county, community and beloved alma mater - Florida A&M - in various capacities
- * Mr. Ernest Sneed - recipient of the Congressional Medal of Honor for his service in WW II under the executive order of President Barack Obama
- * Rep. Alan Williams - represents District 8 in Florida's House of Representatives

The calendar also includes key dates in African-American history. Now in its 13th year, the calendar will be distributed to 20,000 area youth via schools, churches and other community institutions.

Four year college degrees for \$10,000

ARMAND COLSON

In November, 2012, Florida Governor Rick Scott challenged the Florida College System; specifically, those colleges that offer four-year degrees, to offer some of those degrees for a total tuition cost of \$10,000. As of January 29, 2013, all of the 23 member colleges of the Florida College System that offer four-year degrees have accepted the challenge.

The colleges in the Florida College System are: Brevard Community College, Broward College, Chipola College, College of Central Florida, Daytona State College, Edison State College, Florida Gateway College, Florida Keys Community College, Florida State College of Jacksonville, Gulf Coast State College, Hillsborough Community College, Indian River State College, Lake-Sumter State College, Miami Dade College, North Florida Community College, Northwest Florida State College, Palm Beach State College, Polk State College, Santa Fe College, Seminole State College of Florida, South Florida State College, St. Johns River State College, St. Petersburg College, State College of Florida, manatee-Sarasota, **Tallahassee Community College**, and Valencia College.

The idea of obtaining a four-year degree for \$10,000 has been praised for drawing attention to college affordability. It has also been criticized as being limited in the degree choices resulting in a benefit to a small number of students, and doing little to address the overall cause of rising college tuition costs. Stipulations may accompany acceptance into degree programs offered under the \$10,000 tuition cost such as; open to full-time students only, and only available to applicants with a high school GPA of 3.0 or better, out of 4.0.

The state average for a four-year degree at one of the Florida College System schools is approximately \$13,000. The majority of colleges would have to create or redesign a curriculum to fit within the \$10,000 tuition challenge. The degree programs would be in workforce fields such as; information technology, technology management, business and organization management, education and engineering technology.

Governor Rick Scott has said, "Higher education is key to helping our students succeed in the 21st century economy and to grow jobs in Florida. It is important our students can get an affordable education, and our state colleges have stepped up to the challenge to find ways to provide quality education at a great value."

Joe Pickens, chairperson of the Council of Presidents of the Florida College Systems, has said, "To answer the governors challenge in a meaningful way is to survey the needs of the community we serve and come up with something that meets that need."

To receive email alerts when new articles authored by Armand Colson are available, click on the "Subscribe Button". Contact at armandcolson@gmail.com

National law firm bringing job opportunities to Tallahassee

Kaye Scholer

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. -- Kaye Scholer, a national law firm with international capabilities, announced that it has chosen to establish its new operations center in Tallahassee.

The move is slated to bring job opportunities in the fields of accounting, document services, graphics, technology, library services, docketing, human resources and marketing. Right now the exact number of jobs the firm is expected to bring to the area is unknown, according to a Chamber of Commerce official.

The law firm conducted a multi-state search and evaluation but ultimately selected Tallahassee, citing the quality of life, affordable housing and proximity to state government and major universities such as The Florida State University, Florida A&M University and [Tallahassee Community College](#) as the reason.

This stems from a push by several local and state agencies --including the Greater Tallahassee Chamber of Commerce, Economic Development Council of Tallahassee/Leon County, City of Tallahassee, Leon County, and Enterprise Florida-- to inform the firm about the advantages of choosing this state and region.

The company has not selected a final location for its operations center but is in the process of reviewing available locations and buildings.

Kaye Scholer is an AmLaw 100 firm with 9 offices in the US, UK, Europe and Asia.

Additional information will be shared soon regarding the company's job creation and capital investment in the Tallahassee region.

Florida Sterling Council brings performance program to Tallahassee

Dave Hodges

The power of improved performance in the workplace was a message that resonated with Joe Cheatham, who has led that effort in his own organization and helped others achieve it as well.

Cheatham, operations manager at the City of Tallahassee Wastewater Treatment Department, began working with the Florida Sterling Council three years ago as a volunteer. "I went out on a limb and became a Sterling examiner," he said. "It was an eye-opening experience."

Through working with participating organizations, Cheatham got the chance to evaluate them on their performance, but also saw things he could implement in his own department. Last year Wastewater Treatment contracted with the Sterling Council to have an in-house strategic planning workshop and begin the improvement process.

The Florida Sterling Council, a public/private nonprofit supported by the Executive Office of the Governor, was started in 1992. Gov. Lawton Chiles wanted an initiative in state government that was comparable to the Malcolm Baldrige Criteria for Performance Excellence, which had been having a positive effect on federal agencies.

The council is led by the Executive Committee, which oversees the annual Governor's Sterling Award for Performance Excellence and all Sterling process activities and training.

Coming up Feb. 14 is the Performance Improvement Summit, to be held in Tallahassee at the Center for Workforce Development at [Tallahassee Community College](#). The program consists of 90-minute workshops on various best practices, how to build excellence in leadership, and approaches to process improvement.

Among the speakers are [TCC](#) President Jim Murdaugh; Becky Gill, area director of performance improvement at The Ritz-Carlton Hotel Co.; and Steve Dickinson, president of Practical Quality Solutions.

The Tallahassee event, which includes a pre-summit session Feb. 13, is patterned after the big Sterling conference held annually in Orlando. "We brought this to Tallahassee so we can have more of an impact in the Panhandle," said Dione Geiger, executive director of the council.

In his department, Cheatham used Sterling's resources and guidance to train leaders on his team and help them be more effective on the job. They improved their customer service through use of an online questionnaire and focus groups, and also formed a process improvement team to track the department's performance and grade it against that of other utilities, he said.

At his company, FBMC Benefits Management, David Faulkenberry said use of Sterling's principles aids in reviewing business processes, and the tools available helped in building better leaders.

"Then we use the leadership processes we have built to become a high-performance organization," said Faulkenberry, FBMC's president and also the council's secretary/treasurer this year.

Many companies only associate the council with the Governor's Sterling Awards. "It is so much more than that," he said. "It's an organization that provides outstanding training and performance management services. We have a chance in Tallahassee with this summit to have access to the very best training and resources."

For details, call 922-5316 or visit www.floridasterling.com.

TCC Wakulla Center offering course for those in nature-based field

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. – Tallahassee Community College's Wakulla Center will offer a Green Guide Certification course beginning Tuesday, February 12.

The Wakulla Center is at Crawfordville's Centennial Bank building, located at 2932 Crawfordville Highway.

The 90-hour course is designed for individuals who are interested in starting a nature-based business, finding employment in a nature-based field, and for those who simply wish to learn more about the Big Bend Region's natural environment.

The class will meet two evenings per week, primarily on Tuesday and Thursday, for classroom studies and again on Saturday for a field trip.

A sampling of Green Guide certification classes includes north Florida trees, geological features, mammals and reptiles, and business basics. Field trips will explore topics such as birding and sea life, nature photography, history and kayaking.

The cost of the course is \$320 per person and includes all class meetings and field trips. Individual classes are \$20 per person, and individual field trips are \$40 per person.

The Green Guide Certification course continues through April 16.

For more information or to register, call (850) 922-6290 or visit www.tcc.fl.edu/wakulla.

WTXL - February 6, 2013

Thirty-nine student-athletes earn fall academic accolades at TCC

TCC Sports Information

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. (February 4, 2013) - During the recently completed Fall 2012 semester at Tallahassee Community College, a total of 39 student-athletes earned honors recognition for their work in the classroom.

The following student-athletes were named to the Dean's List (3.5-3.99 GPA): Matt Bahnick, baseball; Ethan Bornstein, baseball; Victor Cole, baseball; Ryan Deckert, baseball; Krista Garcia, softball; Alexis Huss, softball; Cherise McEnergy, softball; Ethan Petrey, baseball; Brittany Wright, softball; Taylor Wright, baseball.

The following student-athletes were named to the Honor's List (3.0-3.49 GPA): James Abbatinuzzi, baseball; Cody Alling, baseball; Jarrod Batson, men's basketball; Cody Borup, baseball; Marina Cobbs, softball; Nick Deckert, baseball; Trent Higginbotham, baseball; Chad Mabini, baseball; Kacey Mattos, softball; Trevor McDade, men's basketball; Patrick Riley, baseball; Michael Saxton, men's basketball; Will Thompson, baseball; Dan VanSickle, baseball; Raisa West, women's basketball.

The following student-athletes received Presidential Merit Recognition (students who are in developmental courses and complete a minimum of six hours with a 4.0 GPA): Robert Garcia, baseball; Tammy McMillan, softball.

The following student-athletes received Merit Recognition (students who are in developmental courses and complete a minimum of six hours with a minimum 3.0 GPA): Alex Andrews, men's basketball; Karley Barnes, women's basketball; Addesha Collins, women's basketball; Sofia da Silva, women's basketball; Ashley Dobson, softball; Tyeshia Guinnie, women's basketball; Ashley Heath-Smith, softball; Jonathan Hood, men's basketball; Marlon Johnson, men's basketball; Te Reo Powhiri Matautia, softball; Sam Moore, softball; Duran Porter, men's basketball.

TCC to host lecture on global hunger

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. -- "A Global Perspective on Hunger and Malnutrition," at 1 p.m., Monday, February 18 in the Student Union Ballroom.

The lecture will be led by professor Bill Clay from Florida State University's College of Human Sciences.

Currently, over 900 million people worldwide – approximately 13 percent of the world's population - are chronically hungry and never get enough food to meet their basic energy needs. Hundreds of millions more are affected by seasonal or other forms of transitory food insecurity, and well over half the population of developing countries regularly fail to consume an adequate amount and mix of foods sufficient to meet their total nutrient needs.

The impact of this deprivation is often devastating - not only for malnourished individuals and households, but also for their communities and, often, for entire nations and regions who must cope with an immeasurable loss of human capital and potential.

"One of the keys to dealing effectively with poverty is to recognize that widespread hunger and malnutrition are both the result of failed social and economic developments. Societies beset by hunger and under-nutrition are usually poor and often remain poor, and breaking this cycle of poverty and poor nutrition is imperative, if poor nations hope to climb up the ladder of social and economic development," said Professor Clay.

The lecture is designed to empower individuals to make a difference in their communities and around the world. Participants will learn about the extent and severity of worldwide hunger and malnutrition, and explore the causes and consequences of these problems, including looking into the social, economic, political, agricultural, and environmental aspects of poverty and hunger. Participants will also ponder how these problems can be best addressed.

For more information on this event, contact [Tallahassee Community College](http://www.tallahasseecc.edu)'s Global Learning Office at 850-201-8058 or e-mail globallearning@tcc.fl.edu.

TCC announces event lineup for Black History Month celebration

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. -- Tallahassee Community College's celebration of Black History Month began on Monday, January 28 with the unveiling of the 13th annual Cherry Alexander African-American History Month Calendar.

Monday night's event honored 14 African-American individuals who have made significant contributions in Leon and surrounding counties.

The College's official Black History Month celebration, however, runs throughout the month of February and will include a series of events open to TCC students, faculty and staff, as well as the Tallahassee community.

Youth Day will kick off the event lineup on Thursday, February 7. Youth from Leon and the surrounding counties will convene at TCC's Center for Workforce Development from 10 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Participants, including youth with Gear-Up, TCC's College Reach-out Program, and the Educational Talent Search, will hear from TCC Faculty about influential African-Americans in history, the art of "spoken word," and nutrition. The event will also include STEM activities and a word from TCC SGA President, Ms. Adia Blaize.

On Thursday, February 12, the TCC Library and the College's John G. Riley House Archives will welcome guest lecturer Eluster Richardson, who will be discussing the significance of the art and quilts in his collection "The Life of a Quilt" and the importance of art in African-American culture. Richardson will also focus on the history and style of the famous Florida Highwaymen, a group of self-taught black painters from Florida during the mid-1950's to 1980's. The lecture will be held in Room 265 of the TCC Library from 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

The final event – the popular Gospel Extravaganza and Soul Food Festival – will be held Thursday, February 28. The event, a showcase of local gospel choirs and entertainers, will be held in the Student Union Ballroom and begins with a 6 p.m. reception followed by entertainment at 7 p.m.

Admission to all events is free.

For more information on TCC's celebration of Black History Month, contact Rita Dickey by phone, 850-201-6178, or email dickeyr@tcc.fl.edu.

Green Guide course begins Feb. 12

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The Green Guide Certification course continues through April 16.

For more information or to register, call (850) 922-6290 or visit www.tcc.fl.edu/wakulla.

Tallahassee Democrat - February 6, 2013

TCC host Model United Nations conference

This is an invitation to the middle and high school students in the Tallahassee and surrounding areas to participate in a unique hands-on learning experience called Model United Nations (MUN). Every year Tallahassee Community College (TCC) hosts a Model United Nations conference for middle and high school students held at the Capitol building, called Tallahassee Southern Model United Nations (TSMUN).

Model United Nations is a simulation of the real United Nations (UN) where students represent different countries from around the world, come together to debate foreign politics, and find solutions to real world problems such as Nuclear Energy, Poverty and Sustainable Development. For the past 16 years, TSMUN has provided an engaging educational experience to the Southeast, while raising awareness of international issues for high school and middle school students. This year, our conference will be held on Feb. 15, at the Capitol with over 15 schools attending.

Another great aspect of this conference is the chance to win a full-ride scholarship to Tallahassee Community College (TCC) for two years and be a part of their nationally recognized Model United Nations team. Every year they attend conferences in Atlanta, New York City and abroad to places such as China, the Czech Republic and Ecuador. More details and applications for this can also be found online at tsmun.org.

This conference not only teaches students about global politics, but also invaluable skills such as cooperation, writing technique, debate and public speaking. Throughout the conference, students will write a resolution collaboratively that offers solutions to the topics discussed.

Contact us at sg@tsmun.org if you have any questions! For more information visit our website at tsmun.org or like us on facebook.

Students get early look at college life

SEAN ROSSMAN

A younger, different group of students filed into classrooms at [Tallahassee Community College](#) on Thursday.

The middle and high school students from Gadsden, Wakulla and Leon counties were there to look ahead at what college holds for them.

As part of [TCC's](#) Black History Month celebration, the school invited 200 middle and high school students.

The students packed into classrooms to hear from [TCC](#) college professors and students on the career choices available to them. The students were picked because they are on a path toward being first-generation college students, said Shawana Elwood, a program specialist at Education Talent Search at [TCC](#) and organizer of the event.

"The kids get to see the students that actually attend here," Elwood said.

"They also have an opportunity to share in the experience with the professor as well," said Elwood, who spearheaded this year's event.

The goal was to highlight the importance of education.

The students got a hands-on college experience, with professors and students engaging them on math, science, nutrition, English and manufacturing.

[TCC](#) held a Youth Day two years ago, but Elwood wanted to make this year more interactive.

"I decided — when I decided to be a part of this community — that we should bring something for the youth to do during Black History Month, and let them know that they are important," said Elwood.

Elwood already knew there were students out there who would benefit from a sneak peek. Through her involvement with Education Talent Search, which mentors and steers high school students toward college, she teamed up with Florida Gear-Up and the College Reach-Out program to put on the event.

"What we are doing is just engaging them in college, letting them know that college is a great opportunity, it's something for them to consider," said Adia Blaize, president of [TCC's](#) Student Government Association.

Blaize delivered a seminar on leadership, where she found an engaged audience.

"Most of them want to do something with computer technology," said Blaize of the student's career goals.

"We're letting them know that college is real, it's coming, it's next."

Experience a strength for Eagles

Renovations to clubhouse, field part of new look

Jim Henry

There's a new feel and energy surrounding the [Tallahassee Community College](#) baseball team.

Veteran coach Mike McLeod, in his 23rd season, has plenty of experience and pitching depth, a key combination on any level but especially at two-year programs.

Those strengths have been featured early this season. The Eagles are 8-1 heading into second-day action of the [TCC](#) Diamond Classic at Eagle Field. The three-day event also features Gordon State College and Central Alabama Community College.

Former Leon High left-hander Nick Deckert (2-0), one of four local players on the roster, was the scheduled starter in Thursday's opening game.

McLeod can also see the differences around him following \$150,000 in field and clubhouse renovations.

The infield has been rebuilt, Sports Turf was installed in foul territory and in the bullpens, padding was replaced behind home plate and along dugout railings, and netting in the indoor batting cages was upgraded.

The pieces appear in place for a program determined to reach the state tournament for the first time since 2009, when it advanced as Panhandle Conference champions.

"We have a good feeling and there's a lot of energy," McLeod said.

"The coaches are excited, the players are excited. But we also temper that and we have to because we know what this conference is all about."

While the Eagles don't open conference play until mid-March, they certainly understand the importance of playing well and gaining momentum. The bullpen is off to a strong start and the team has registered four comeback wins. Last year's team (32-19) also showed plenty of potential before it was slowed by inconsistency and injuries in conference play.

"We have a veteran pitching staff and a veteran lineup," said Deckert, a sophomore and one of seven left-handed pitchers.

"We have a lot of experience which we hope correlates with (conference) wins in the season. Last year, I didn't know what to expect when I went into some of my starts. This year I've gained a lot of confidence, so now I know how to take care of myself and how to throw to batters and keep them off balance."

Former North Florida Christian star and Florida State commitment Nick Graganella anchors a starting lineup that can feature eight sophomores. Former Leon High catcher Tyler York has split time behind the plate and at first base.

McLeod said freshman outfielder John Price, who played at East Gadsden High, has demonstrated impressive potential and reminds him at times of former [TCC](#) star and Kansas City Royals center fielder Lorenzo Cain.

Shortstop Anthony Torres, of Puerto Rico, solidifies in the infield.

Sophomore right-hander Daniel VanSickle, a University of North Florida signee, headlines the deep pitching staff.

"Our pitching depth is a lot better than it has been in awhile," McLeod said.

TCC Celebrates Youth Day

Mike Springer

Tallahassee, FL-Signing Day may be over, but one local community college got a chance to look at some potential academic recruits Thursday.

Students from the Big Bend participated in **Tallahassee Community College's** 'Youth Day' celebration.

Youth Day is part of **TCC's** Black History Month festivities.

The event gives students chance to learn about African American History, nutrition and participate in some Science Technologies Engineering and Math activities.

Organizers say it also gives them a chance to experience what the school has to offer.

"Part of our responsibility has always (been to) reach out to the community in any aspect we can, particularly our middle and high school students who may one day be future students at **TCC,**" said associate professor, Anthony Jones.

Organizers estimate about 200 students participated in 'Youth Day'. The students where from middle schools and high schools in Leon, Wakulla and Gadsden Counties.

Tallahassee Democrat - February 11, 2013

Mary Brogan board meets tonight to discuss options

TAMARYN WATERS

A special meeting of the Mary Brogan Museum of Art and Science board is slated today, and board members are expected to review options for the struggling museum on whether to move forward or close indefinitely

The downtown museum is currently closed and has struggled to downsize its debt and expenses. Efforts to reinvent the museum with a science-based focus have created division among board members.

Tallahassee Community College President Jim Murdaugh and City Commissioner Gil Ziffer both resigned, noting serious concern with the Brogan's ability to stay open with the new mission and potential program conflicts of interest with the neighboring Challenger Learning Center. Leon County Commissioner Kristin Dozier is posed to follow if reinvention efforts continue; noting she believes it would be "irresponsible" to stay on knowing the financial outlook.

Other board members say reinvention efforts deserve a chance to develop before closing the doors for good.

A closed meeting will take place at 5 p.m. at the museum, located at Kleman Plaza.

Brogan Board Votes for Path to Permanent Closure

Gina Pitisci

Tallahassee, FL - One of Tallahassee's museums will begin the process of closing its doors. The board members of the Mary Brogan Museum of Art and Science, voted unanimously tonight. On a resolution to dissolve the organization, based on existing debt and expenses. The museum has been closed since January 1st 2011 while board members tried to get the museum's finances in order. The next step is for the Board Chair, Felicia Nowles, to contract with a lawyer to get a plan for dissolution established. Nowles states "We have a job and that job entailed taking care of our debt and I have always been committed to that and I'm really really happy that that's what we are doing. We're taking steps to take care of our debt." Brogan Board Member and Leon County Commissioner, Kristin Dozier, says "The museum has been open for over 15 years, tremendous amount of community support up front and on going through the years but lots of financial trouble for the last several years which has brought us to this point." In the next couple of months there are a few organizations that may be interested in renting the location and the option to offer spring break and summer camps is still being discussed. An additional meeting has been recommended by board members to address the details on dissolving the institution but a date on that meeting has not been decided at this time.