

TALLAHASSEE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

In the News



June 17 - August 19, 2017

TALLAHASSEE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

In the News



- Tallahassee Democrat 4-6,
13, 15, 20-23, 29-30, 32-33, 37-38, 41-42, 44-45
- Southeast Ag Net. 7
- National Public Radio 8-9
- WTXL 10, 37-38, 43
- Gadsden County Times 11-12, 24, 35
- Wakulla News 12, 16-18, 25-27, 35-36, 43,
47, 50
- WFSU 14
- Thomasville Times-Enterprise 17
- WCTV 19, 48
- Sun Sentinel. 28
- Florida Trend 31
- Capital Outlook. 34
- Lee Herald 39-40
- Gartner 46
- Florida Trend Next 49

June 17 - August 19, 2017

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In the News



Electronic Media

- June 21 - WTXL - TCC receives \$10,000 gift for Digital Rail project
- June 23 - NPR - Profile of incoming TCC student Sam Marsenison's academic journey
- June 26 - WCTV - FPSI to hold law enforcement and firefighter graduation exercises
- June 27 - WTXL - TFA graduating class raises more than \$1200 for charity
- June 28 - WTXL - TCC hosts cybersecurity awareness event in Gadsden Safety Series
- July 6 - WCTV - WEI, Ghazvini Center set to offer for-credit Fall 2017 courses
- July 13 - WTXL - TCC hosts job fair for current students and graduates
- July 16 - WCTV - Trustees Lamb and Moore featured in national CBS story on Sweet Home Café
- July 18 - WTXL - 2017 "Arrive. Apply. Accepted." three-part series starts on main campus
- July 25 - WTXL - "Arrive. Apply. Accepted." series concludes with Gadsden Center event
- July 28 - WTXL - TCC to offer Mental Health First Aid course
- July 28 - WTXL - Gadsden Safety Series continues with operations plan training
- August 2 - WCTV - U.S. Postal Service hosts job fair at TCC
- August 7 - WTXL - Declining enrollment, budget cuts spur discussion at TCC
- August 13 - WCTV - LCS superintendent Hanna wants to strengthen partnership with TCC
- August 18 - WCTV/WTXL - TCC hosts first-ever New Student Convocation

Richard Murgo tapped for dean's post at Tallahassee Community College

BYRON DOBSON

TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT

During his more than 20-year-tenure at Tallahassee Community College, Richard Murgo has taught political science, served as program chair and established international studies programs for students.

On Friday, Murgo was appointed the dean of the college's Behavioral, Social Science and Education division, by Provost Feleccia Moore-Davis.

"Dr. Murgo is passionate about students and is committed to the mission of TCC," Moore-Davis said in her announcement. "I look forward to his contributions and leadership that will take the division and college to the next level of excellence."

Murgo, who became associate dean last year, succeeds Monte Finkelstein, who is retiring at the end of July.

"I have been committed to this college and its students for a significant portion of my life," Murgo said. "I am continuously rewarded by my many students who have gone on to make the world a better place. It's for that reason, I am so very excited and grateful that I am going into a position that may positively affect the lives of TCC's faculty, staff and—most importantly—its students."

Murgo, 61, joined the TCC faculty in 1995. He also is the co-founder of the TCC's Model United Nations organization, which recently earned several awards during its national conference in New York.

He established programs for TCC students to study in China and the Czech Republic.

He often is called upon for his views on state and national politics.

Murgo earned his doctorate in political education and masters in political science from Florida State University. He also has a master's degree in applied economics from the University of Central Florida.

TCC trustees approve \$60.9 million budget, brace for lean spending year

BYRON DOBSON

TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT

Tallahassee Community College's District Board of Trustees Monday approved a \$60.9 million spending plan for next year, about \$3 million less than last year.

The smaller budget reflects a nearly \$3 million cut in state funding and projected decrease in enrollment. It also means tough times ahead.

TCC President Jim Murdaugh warned that students will be waiting longer in line for services, faculty positions could go unfilled and part-time employee positions could be reduced.

There are no plans for layoff or furloughs, but there's no money budgeted for pay raises.

Of the entire spending plan, \$45.9 million goes toward personnel, \$14.2 million for operations and \$700,000 for capital outlay.

"We are going to work our way through it, but it will have an impact on faculty and students," Murdaugh told trustees.

Trustee Karen Moore put it bluntly: "We are facing a real challenge here. Our priority is not having a significant impact on students."

Last year, TCC got \$34.1 million in state funding, compared to the \$31.1 million for next year. The budget doesn't include an estimated \$814,735 in performance funding because legislators have yet to decide on those appropriations.

At the same time, the college has to absorb insurance increases of \$129,000 for six months and a \$365,000 increase in retirement funding.

On top of that, the college is projecting a 2.7 percent decline in enrollment, resulting in the loss of more than \$864,278 in tuition and fees.

Murdaugh said his biggest concern is not being able to hire faculty and advisers.

"That makes it harder for us to offer the number of courses that offer students choices," he said, noting this could be detrimental to boosting enrollment figures. "It's just not good for the students.

"What we do here at TCC is not only important for our students here but for those who are going to Florida State and Florida A&M," he said.

The cuts to state colleges at the expense of providing more dollars to state universities and charter schools have "damaged higher education in Florida," Murdaugh said.

"On a more hopeful voice, I think the leadership of the Legislature realizes the seriousness of these cuts and I am optimistic they will restore our funds and take a fresh look at the needs of colleges in the next session.

As for enrollment, Murdaugh said studies show that when job are available and unemployment is low, more potential students choose jobs over furthering their education.

But for spending purposes, the college has to take seriously the fact it is likely to enroll fewer this students this fall.

"We budget for a declining enrollment, but we hope that reality isn't as pessimistic as our budget."

TCC's Murdaugh repeats high marks on performance evaluation

BYRON DOBSON

TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT

Tallahassee Community College's District Board of Trustees continues to be impressed with its president.

Trustees Monday approved without discussion their evaluation of Jim Murdaugh. They gave him top scores possible in the majority of the six categories: organizational strategy, resource management, communication, collaboration, community college advocacy, and professionalism.

Six of the seven trustees gave him the highest rating in "creates a work atmosphere that encourages high morale and maximizes individual performances" in the collaboration section. One trustee gave him a 4 with 5 being the highest rating.

Last year, Murdaugh earned 5's, the highest rating, in every category from each trustee.

Trustees submit their observations anonymously with combined scores and comments compiled in the final evaluation.

Among the areas Murdaugh was noted for were: raising awareness of TCC during last year's 50th-anniversary celebrations, maintaining strong relationships with Florida State and Florida A&M universities, focusing on scholarships and services for students and is knowledge of the state college system.

"It's a reflection of the performance of all the men and women who work here at the college," Murdaugh said. "I'm grateful they rate my leadership and our team effort so highly."

Murdaugh, who earns \$286,409 a year, won't be seeing a boost in his paycheck. He only accepts a raise when it is granted to all employees.

No raises are budgeted for this year as TCC grapples with a nearly \$3 million loss in state funding and a projected 2.7 percent drop in enrollment, resulting in belt-tightening across the board.

"I've asked for no changes in my existing contract," said Murdaugh, who is in his sixth year as president.

Board chairman Randy Pople said Murdaugh continues to show strong leadership at the college.

"He clearly is a leader focused on student success," Pople said. "He's always thinking, 'how does this impact the students,'" during any policy discussions with the seven-member board.

"I think he's a great inspiration to the staff," Pople said. "People have an opportunity to learn from his style."

Pople and vice chair Jonathan Kilpatrick represented trustees during Murdaugh's review.

FAMU, TCC work to improve oyster industry

JACI SCHRECKENGOST
SOUTHEAST AG NET

One of the main goals at Florida A&M University's (FAMU) Division of Research is to help create new ways of thinking and creating to benefit the agriculture industry in the Southeast.

Tallahassee Community College (TCC) and FAMU have teamed up in an effort to help increase the oyster industry. Timothy Moore, vice president of research at FAMU, says TCC has created a program to reach new areas including Wakulla and Apalachicola Bay in Florida. He says Australian technologies that include using baskets, instead of the typical bottom-feeding style, are being used.

Testing the water to see the impact oysters have on the water is one way FAMU is helping TCC.

"As you may know, an oyster filters 50 gallons of water a day per animal, so you put millions and millions of these animals in the water, you're cleaning the water, reestablishing the ecosystem and bringing in large sport fishing," says Moore.

FAMU is also helping by making hatcheries for spat more accessible and affordable for oyster ranchers.

Moore says he wants people to recognize that FAMU is here to help by partnering with others, such as TCC, to improve the industry.

How it all turned out: A kindergarten story, 13 years later

CLAUDIO SANCHEZ
NATIONAL PUBLIC RADIO

Today we're going to update a story we first brought you back in 2004. That September, NPR set out to document what may be the most important day in any young child's life — the first day of kindergarten. For parents it's a day filled with hope, anxiety and one big question: Is our child ready?

The answer back then, as far as 5-year-old Sam Marsenison was concerned, was, "No, no, no!"

For his parents, Paul and Maryanna Marsenison of Fort Lauderdale, Fla., it was tough letting go too. They had spent weeks, if not months, preparing themselves. But on that day, Sam made it very clear that he wanted no part of his new school, Virginia Shuman Young Elementary.

Sam lunged toward Maryanna and wrapped his little arms around her waist, tears rolling down both their faces.

In the background, the principal was on the PA system with a not-so-subtle warning: It was time for all kindergarten parents to leave. Immediately.

And now it was Maryanna, not Sam, who didn't want to let go. For a while it seemed that even a tractor couldn't pull her away.

Thirteen years later, Sam says he has only vague memories of the drama that unfolded on his first day of kindergarten. Now 18, he has grown into a tall, handsome young man with his mother's eyes and olive brown skin.

A few days ago, Sam graduated from Fort Lauderdale High School, and he will soon be off to college. Sam is well aware that his parents are anxious, wondering — again — whether he is ready.

"My parents are sending me across the state to go live by myself," he says, "which I've never done before."

Sam is headed for Tallahassee Community College, about 460 miles north of Fort Lauderdale. His grades weren't good enough to get into Florida State University, but Sam hopes to transfer there, assuming he takes his studies seriously and his grades improve.

Paul, his dad, has his misgivings: "I don't have confidence that he's going to take [his studies] seriously in the beginning."

Maryanna disagrees. "I think he will. Because he's done a lot of growing up this past half year."

Throughout high school, Paul and Maryanna struggled to get Sam to work hard, to think about his future.

"A year ago he did not even want to go to college," says Maryanna.

At one point, Sam talked about joining the military.

Sam, of course, has heard all this talk before, and he has told his mom and dad hundreds of times: "I'm definitely ready and I'm confident I'm going to do well."

At Fort Lauderdale High, the few teachers who got to know Sam saw him as an average student. The one thing he seemed passionate about was fishing — especially with his dad.

"Not every weekend, but we'd go quite a bit," says Paul. "And I think that has given him a tremendous amount of self-confidence."

Paul is convinced that being out on the water builds character. It's one thing that seems to truly bond Sam and his father. Paul says that's what he is going to miss most when Sam, his "fishing buddy," is gone.

Listening to Paul reminds me of how strongly he felt 13 years ago about raising a fearless, confident child. It was important to him, for example, that 5-year-old Sam learn to ride the school bus by himself. Here's the way Paul put it back then:

"We have to put him on a bus. Get him on a bus and shake him up a little bit," he told me. "Make him think on his feet a little bit."

To this day, Maryanna is the hand-holder while Paul is the one pushing Sam to be more independent. It's been a tug of war of sorts.

How it all turned out: A kindergarten story, 13 years later....

continued

With only a couple of hours before graduation, the Marsenison home is abuzz with aunts and grandparents from out of town. I pull Sam off to the side to ask him how he is feeling.

"I know I could've pushed myself harder, studied more, done better," he says.

I ask him: Do you think you have to prove to your dad and your family that you're ready to work hard and have a bright future?

"I don't think I have to prove it to them," he responds. "It's what I want for myself, so I'll do whatever it takes."

"Heck, I might even work for my dad's construction business someday," Sam adds with a chuckle.

I have a feeling Paul would really like that.

Right now, though, the graduation ceremony awaits. First, Sam needs help with his tie. He has no idea how to put one on and his dad wasn't much help either. No problem: His mom is there to help.

Maryanna still can't believe her little boy has grown up so big, so fast. She tries to hold her emotions in check, reminiscent of how she tried to hold back tears on Sam's first day of kindergarten.

"Yeah, there's going to be tears, again," she says. "The emotions are the same. But I'm more confident because he's a real person now. He's a person, I should say. He was my baby."

Sam just sighs: "They don't want to let me go," he says. How does that feel? "It feels good that they'll miss me."

It's time. The entire family, aunts and grandparents, squeeze into the two family cars and make their way to the Broward County Center for the Performing Arts, where Sam and more than 500 of his classmates will receive their diplomas.

As Sam walks across the stage with diploma in hand, Paul and Maryanna smile.

Their 5-year-old has turned out to be a healthy, happy young man with a good heart. Yes, a late bloomer, perhaps, but someone they believe will one day make them even more proud than they are tonight.

TCC Gadsden Center set to host cyber security workshop

WTLX

In honor of June being National Safety Month, the Tallahassee Community College Gadsden Center is hosting a safety workshop event.

This seminar is a part of their safety series, and this class will cover the topic of cyber security on Friday, June 30 at 1 p.m. at Tallahassee Community College Gadsden Center.

TCC invites business owners, employees, and community leaders to this class to be informed of the key safety techniques from our community partners so you can make your home and workplace safer.

Clifford Stokes Jr., an professional information security officer, will be the featured speaker for this event.

Admission for the workshop is free and if you would like more information please, visit TCC's website or call (850) 558-3620.

TCC announces latest donations

GADSDEN COUNTY TIMES

Tallahassee Community College has announced two major gifts to support vital activities at the College.

Larry and Vicki Kubiak presented a gift valued at \$70,000 to create an endowed scholarship for first generation in college students, to renovate a classroom that will be renamed the Costopoulos Kubiak Family Classroom and to support the New Start Scholarship Fund.

Larry Kubiak is a psychologist practicing with Tallahassee Memorial Behavioral Health Center. Vicki Costopoulos Kubiak is the co-creator of motherdaughterprojects.com, which provides do-it-yourself tips and videos for homeowners. Both of the couple's children, Stephen and Stephanie, are TCC alumni.

The New Start Scholarship assists students who have been involved with the juvenile justice system but who are turning their lives around. The Kubiaks' donation will be used to create a matching fund for future donations in order to move the scholarship toward its target endowment of \$500,000.

"You cannot put a price tag on providing hope in people's lives, and that's what the scholarship does," said Larry Kubiak. "It is a hope not for just their own betterment but that of their entire family and those around them. We're very happy to be part of that."

Full Press Apparel, a family-owned business that has been creating custom screen-printed and embroidered apparel and promotional gifts in Tallahassee for two decades, has donated \$10,000 to support TCC's Digital Rail Project.

The project is designed to attract K-12 students to careers in digital media and information technology. TCC will equip a mobile lab to visit area schools and events to promote career opportunities in digital media, web design and web programming, app development, 3-D printing and rapid prototyping, and cybersecurity.

The gift was presented by Full Press Apparel's owners, Tracey and Danny Shrine. The latter is a TCC graduate.

According to Heather Mitchell, executive director of the TCC Foundation, the Digital Rail Project has the potential to expand the talent pipeline for digital media and information technologies. Employers like the Shrines will play a central role in project activities, as the College continually adapts certificate and degree pathways in these rapidly growing fields.

"We find it difficult to hire for jobs in graphic arts and design, and when talking to other business owners, they echoed the same sentiment," said Tracey Shrine. "We wanted to help get this project off the ground so that we are helping students learn valuable skills that make them employable as quickly as possible once they leave TCC. The skills students learn at TCC will make them an asset to lots of local businesses, not just ours!"

For information, contact Heather Mitchell at MITCHELH@tcc.fl.edu or (850) 201-6067.

(NOTE: A truncated version of this story also appeared in the Campus Notes section of the Tallahassee Democrat on Monday, June 26, 2017.)

TCC announces admissions events

GADSDEN COUNTY TIMES

Tallahassee Community College will host three admissions and financial aid events during the month of July aimed at providing a one-stop opportunity for prospective students to enroll at the College.

The "Arrive. Apply. Accepted." events will take place July 18 in the Advising Center at the TCC Student Union on the main campus, July 20 at the TCC Wakulla Center, and July 25 at the TCC Gadsden Center. All three events are from 6 to 8 p.m.

Applicants at each of the events can enter to win one of three \$1,000 scholarships in a drawing. The scholarships are provided by the Financial Aid office.

TCC staff will be on hand to help students complete admissions applications and financial aid forms, including the Free Application for Federal Student Aid. In addition, advisers will be present to assist with course registration.

Home-school students are invited to a special breakout session at the July 18 event from 6:30 to 7 p.m. The session will be held in the Student Union Ballroom.

Students seeking financial aid are required to bring recent tax forms, including W-2 forms. Additionally, dependent students should bring at least one parent to the event in order to complete the application. For a list of all documents required to apply for admission to TCC, please visit www.tcc.fl.edu/residency.

The main campus is located at 444 Appleyard Drive in Tallahassee. The TCC Wakulla Center is located at 2932 Crawfordville Highway in Crawfordville. The TCC Gadsden Center is located at 223 Pat Thomas Parkway in Quincy.

For information, contact Christen Givens at (850) 201-8466 or bennettc@tcc.fl.edu.

TCC course at Kleman will focus on startups

BYRON DOBSON

TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT

Rick Paul has spent the bulk of the past 30 years on college campuses, teaching courses in computer science, management information systems and most recently, entrepreneurship.

He's working on the third edition of his textbook, "The Experienced Entrepreneur," originally published in 1992.

In August, Paul will use chapters from the textbook, along with practical examples, as he launches for Tallahassee Community College, the "Experienced Entrepreneur Series," a 15-week course focusing on the basics of starting and operating a business.

Paul was hired in April as coordinator of "TCC Spark!, an initiative of TCC's Workforce Development division focused on providing future and current business owners with ongoing training, mentoring and networking.

Another goal is to create opportunities for new businesses with the goal of keeping recent college graduates in Tallahassee while expanding economic development.

TCC Spark! is a joint partnership between TCC and First Commerce Credit Union, which last fall committed \$300,000 over five years toward the project.

Since April, Paul has brought events such as a Speed Mentoring series and an Entrepreneur's Forum to TCC's Center for Innovation on Kleman Plaza.

"We are thrilled with the new offerings Rick has brought to the table," TCC President Jim Murdaugh said. "His immense expertise will be crucial as our college strives to grow the spirit of entrepreneurship in the communities we serve."

The Experienced Entrepreneur series is the first non-credit, semester-length course offered through TCC Spark! Twenty students will be accepted. It costs \$225, plus the purchase of the textbook. TCC plans to offer it again in the spring.

TCC SPARK! offers credit and noncredit courses throughout the year.

While the new course title might indicate it is targeting seasoned business owners, that's not the case, Paul says. It wants to reach a mix of current TCC students, past graduates and people from the community.

"This is an opportunity for everyone to come together to learn about entrepreneurship," he said. "We have people interested in starting their own business, whether they be 45 years old or 16."

Paul describes the course as "practical hands-on course with some theory involved."

Students will discuss what is needed in successful business opportunities, how to bring a product or service together, turning a business plan into a marketing plan and how to keep it open.

"We could also take people who have been in business for a while, but do not have a business plan," Paul said. "Business plans are required to get a bank loan or funding of some other sort."

Before coming to TCC, Paul was an entrepreneurship instructor at the Sheetz Center for Entrepreneurial Excellence at Penn State-Altoona.

From 2001 to 2004, he held a non-tenured position teaching management information systems at FSU.

"TCC Spark! is about building relationships between Spark! participants and the local business community," Paul said. "I look forward to the opportunity to make our college's service area a premier entrepreneurial destination."

Gillum is the latest politician to take interest in oyster aquaculture

KATE PAYNE

WFSU

A Florida gubernatorial candidate made a stop at an oyster farming cooperative in Wakulla County Wednesday. The visit shows a different way of harvesting the Panhandle's signature shellfish is gaining political ground.

Tallahassee mayor and gubernatorial candidate Andrew Gillum toured the Panacea Oyster Co-Op this week. The group supports shellfish farmers, who cultivate their crops in floating baskets, a practice called aquaculture. That's in contrast to conventional oysterers, who use tongs to harvest their catch wild. [Bob Ballard heads Tallahassee Community College's aquaculture program, and he says he's seen interest from recent congressional candidates too.](#)

"I've taken them on tours of the aquaculture farming out there. And all were very, very interested. So it's not surprising at all that he would want to see what's going on firsthand," Ballard said.

Proponents say aquaculture is more economically and environmentally sustainable than conventional harvesting.

"It's excellent for the environment. It's excellent for the economy. So I fully understand why anybody who's running for office would want to be associated and be a part of this oyster aquaculture program that we have in Wakulla County," Ballard said.

But the practice hasn't yet caught on in Apalachicola Bay, known for its oysters, and its struggle for freshwater access.

Billion dollar lawsuit claims state broke higher education promises

JAMES CALL

TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT

Two siblings who graduated from the University of Florida say the state short-changed them on their education.

Alexis S. Geffin, UF 2017, has teamed up with her brother, Ryan J. Geffin, UF 2016, in a lawsuit to claim they did not receive the intended benefits of more than \$1 billion in private donations to Florida colleges and universities. Alexis is a sports reporter in Wausau, Wisconsin, while her brother pursued graduate studies at UF.

The siblings who grew up in Weston filed the suit last week in Leon County. It seeks to force the state to abide by four separate state laws that obligate the state to "match" private donations to state colleges and universities.

The state delayed those payments during the Great Recession in 2006, but once the economy recovered in 2012, the state continued not to meet its statutory obligations to match donations, according to Grace Mead, the Geffins' attorney.

"The Department of Education simply stopped asking for the money," said Mead, who works for the Stearns Weaver Miller law firm. "We went through thousands of documents and looked for the non-existence of funding."

Mead's research includes a 2011 DOE memo warning repeal of the matching statutes could "result in the loss of advocacy and financial support from potential donors."

The suit argues the lack of spending is unconstitutional, commits a breach of contract and damaged the education of students.

"We're talking about money for facility improvements, financial aid, and scholarships," said Mead. "It impacted all the students and institutions and is ongoing."

Gov. Rick Scott's office Wednesday afternoon said it had not been notified of the suit when asked for a comment.

The suit seeks \$49.8 million owed to Florida State University, \$4.5 million for Tallahassee Community College and \$1.2 million for Florida A&M University. FIU is owed at least \$49.67 million and UNF is owed at least \$9.6 million.

UF has the most at stake. Mead calculates the state owes the school more than \$155 million in matches for private donations.

TCC Spark! set to inspire local entrepreneurs

WAKULLA NEWS

Tallahassee Community College and First Commerce Credit Union have announced the hiring of a coordinator for the TCC Spark! entrepreneurship initiative.

Rick Paul joined the college in April after a two-year tenure at Pennsylvania State University, where he served as an entrepreneurship instructor in the Sheetz Center for Entrepreneurial Excellence.

Paul has held business education positions at several other institutions, including a stint at Florida State University from 2001 to 2004.

"TCC Spark! is about building relationships between Spark! participants and the local business community," said Paul. "I look forward to the opportunity to make our college's service area a premier entrepreneurial destination."

In just over two months at TCC, Paul has created several new events, including the Speed Mentoring series and Entrepreneurs' Forum held at the TCC Center for Innovation in downtown Tallahassee. Both offerings launched successfully in June.

The Center for Innovation will also host the first semester-length TCC Spark! course. Paul will teach the Experienced Entrepreneur Series, a 15-week non-credit course preparing participants to start or enhance their own businesses.

"We are thrilled with the new offerings Rick has brought to the table," said TCC President Jim Murdaugh. "His immense expertise will be crucial as our College strives to grow the spirit of entrepreneurship in the communities we serve."

The course begins Thursday, August 24, at 6 p.m., and costs \$225 plus the price of the textbook. Interested individuals should first apply to TCC at www.tcc.fl.edu/apply, then visit www.tccspark.com to register.

Course applicants will need to fill out an interest form and provide additional materials for registration approval.

TCC students, alumni and community members are encouraged to apply.

Applicants can either have a business idea or already be in business.

The TCC Spark! initiative is sponsored by a five-year, \$300,000 grant from First Commerce, a full service financial institution with locations throughout North Florida and South Georgia.

"This exciting opportunity would not be possible without the generosity of our friends at First Commerce," said Murdaugh. "We look forward to an enduring community partnership with them."

The Starbucks store in the Center for Innovation is open until 7 p.m. on evenings when events or classes are taking place.

Participants may park in the Kleman Plaza garage and may have their parking validated.

The TCC Center for Innovation is located at 300 West Pensacola Street.

For information, contact Rick Paul at (850) 201-9438 or paulric@tcc.fl.edu.

TCC expands fall 2017 course offerings at multiple campuses

WAKULLA NEWS/THOMASVILLE TIMES-ENTERPRISE

Tallahassee Community College (TCC) will offer expanded fall 2017 course options to better meet the needs of degree-seeking students who may have transportation or scheduling concerns.

Students at the Wakulla Environmental Institute may enroll in Earth Science and/or Mathematics I for Liberal Arts. Both hybrid courses are scheduled to meet on Tuesday evenings, with substantial amounts of instruction and coursework taking place online.

The Ghazvini Center for Healthcare Education is presenting general education course offerings as well. In-person options include Introduction to Biological Sciences, Anatomy and Physiology I, College Composition, Introduction to Business, Introduction to the Humanities, Mathematics I for Liberal Arts, General Psychology, and College Success.

In addition, several accelerated courses will be offered on TCC's main campus from Monday, Aug. 21, through Monday, Sept. 18. The "D Session" course options include Developmental Writing I, Introduction to Literature, Foundations for College Mathematics I, Developmental Reading I and II, and College Success.

More details on classes can be found on the TCC website at www.tcc.fl.edu/new-at-tcc. Interested individuals should first apply to be a TCC student by visiting www.tcc.fl.edu/apply.

For information, contact the Division of Academic Affairs at (850) 201-8680 or acadaffairs@tcc.fl.edu.

TCC hosts “one-stop” events for prospective new students

WAKULLA NEWS

Tallahassee Community College will host three admissions and financial aid events during the month of July aimed at providing a one-stop opportunity for prospective students to enroll at the College.

The “Arrive. Apply. Accepted.” events will take place at three times:

- July 18 in the Advising Center at the TCC Student Union on the main campus;
- July 20 at the TCC Wakulla Center;
- July 25 at the TCC Gadsden Center.

All three events are from 6 to 8 p.m.

Applicants at each of the events can enter to win one of three \$1,000 scholarships in a drawing.

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The TCC Gadsden Center is located at 223 Pat Thomas Parkway in Quincy.

For information, contact Christen Givens at (850) 201-8466 or bennettc@tcc.fl.edu.

(NOTE: This story ran again in the Thursday, July 13, 2017 edition of the Wakulla News.)

Florida colleges looking to raise enrollment rates

TIFFANY LEWIS

WCTV

The enrollment rate at Florida two-year colleges has been declining for the past five years.

Total enrollment for the state was at 350,108 students for the 2012-2013 school year, now down to 327,991 students in 2015-2016.

Calandra Stringer, the VP for Administrative Affairs at Tallahassee Community College, is hoping that TCC can help fix that.

"Right now we are at a bit of a decline," Stringer said, "But we are hoping that as we expand and make things more accessible to students, that we can change that."

In the fall, TCC will become one of the many state colleges that will offer core classes at their satellite branches. A growing trend aimed at helping students in all areas easily access college classes.

"Many other colleges do have more courses that they offer at their satellite locations than TCC, so it is something that we are looking to ramp up," Stringer said, "We are hoping that by offering classes at our branches, more students will be able to enroll and not have to make the long trip to the Tallahassee campus."

Florida colleges do continue to remain the most affordably priced option for higher education in Florida. Costing just a fraction of the cost of state universities.

TCC hoping their expansion will open the door for even more students to get access to affordable education. They plan to use the enrollment numbers to determine if more classes will be offered at satellite locations in the future.

TCC plans to expand courses at 2 campuses

BYRON DOBSON

TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT

With a new slate of courses at its Wakulla Environmental Institute and Ghazvini Center campuses, Tallahassee Community College is bringing classes closer to where students live this fall.

Until now, the Wakulla Institute offered certificate courses in Green Guides, oyster aquaculture and drone applications. But in August, students will be able to enroll in earth science or mathematics for liberal arts.

"We want to make sure our classes are convenient and accessible to students," said Calandra Stringer, associate vice president for academic affairs.

"This will be our first time offering credit classes at the Wakulla Environmental Institute," Stringer said. "We are bringing the classes closer to the students. Those who live in Wakulla may not want to drive to the main campus."

TCC also is adding to the mix of courses at the Ghazvini Center for Healthcare Education.

Courses in College Composition, Anatomy and Physiology I, Mathematics I for Liberal Arts, General Psychology and College Success will be offered on site. That's in addition to introductory courses in biological sciences, business, and humanities.

Stringer said the courses are targeting students seeking associate degrees. Offering the courses away from the main campus also removes the obstacle of transportation for potential students, she said.

"We want to make sure we are fully using our facilities to help students," she said. "We don't really know what to anticipate (in enrollment), but we're hoping for good numbers."

Current TCC faculty will be teaching the courses, Stringer said. The Wakulla courses will have a strong online component.

It comes at a time when TCC is facing leaner spending with the reduction of nearly \$3 million in state funding for next year and an expected decrease in enrollment.

A 2.7 percent drop in the number of students could result in a loss of more than \$864,278 in tuition and fees.

Stringer said enrollment in the courses offered in Wakulla and at Ghazvini will determine if more classes can be offered away from the main campus on Appleyard Drive.

"We want to do a pilot to see how well it works," she said. "We are hoping we can draw some students who had transportation issues."

Marine vet Trey Waddell earns high marks as TCC chemistry scholar

TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT (SPONSORED STORY)

Transitioning from military to civilian life is a difficult process. For some veterans, college provides a valuable opportunity to refocus their service efforts in other pursuits.

Such is the case for Trey Waddell III, who received his Associate in Arts degree from Tallahassee Community College in May. Waddell enrolled at TCC after serving in the United States Marine Corps.

"TCC has put me in contact with professors who have mentored me in my academic pursuits," Waddell said. "They have consistently encouraged me and put me in contact with the necessary people to help further my goals."

That assistance combined with a strong work ethic helped Waddell win the 2017 CRC Press Chemistry Achievement Award, sponsored by the Taylor and Francis Group. The annual honor bestowed by the members of TCC's chemistry department recognizes the top chemistry student at the College.

Waddell received a certificate of achievement as well as a copy of the 2017 CRC Press Manual, a reference that includes mathematical constants and physical properties of common compounds.

TCC chemistry professor Anthony Dribben praised Waddell's academic performance, as well as his leadership of fellow students in the collaborative environment of lab coursework.

"Trey's lab reports were of publication quality," Dribben said. "Other students would often seek him out to see how we would approach a particular experiment."

Waddell plans to transfer to Florida State University's nursing program after finishing prerequisite coursework in the fall. He aspires to become a mental health nurse practitioner specializing in counseling and rehabilitation for veterans with post-traumatic stress disorder.

Waddell emphasized the presence of people at the College who genuinely care about student success, particularly where his fellow veterans are concerned.

"Returning veterans should strongly consider TCC as a choice for their education," Waddell said. "TCC is a veteran-friendly school, and there are numerous resources in Tallahassee to help you succeed."

Help wanted: Educators addressing need for more nurses

PAM FORRESTER

TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT

The Help Wanted sign has been hanging outside Florida hospitals for years and it looks like it will stay up for a little while longer. The State Board of Education meeting in Tallahassee on Monday, July 17, may take a first step towards addressing the issue.

Every month in Florida, 3,000 nursing jobs are posted yet only 21 percent of those are filled. Some call it the perfect storm, others a tsunami but no matter the name, there is a critical shortage of nurses in Florida. A baby boomer population of nurses is retiring at the same time the baby boomer population is aging and needs more nursing and medical help. Adding to the crisis, hospitals and other health care providers now want nurses with more specialized training.

Estimates go as high as 1,000 additional nurses will be needed to serve the Orlando community. From 2013 to 2015 there was a 30 percent leap in vacancies for nurses in Florida hospitals creating more than 12,500 open positions. The need for nurses is not shrinking in the near future, by 2023 the demand for nurses in the United States will actually grow to more than 3.2 million that is an 11 percent jump from 2015 levels.

To address the critical shortfalls and produce a future talent pipeline in Central Florida, a consortium of colleges with the support of the University of Central Florida are requesting the State Board of Education approve workforce baccalaureate proposals at Valencia College, Seminole State College of Florida, Lake-Sumter State College and Eastern Florida State College. The new programs enable nurses currently in the local workforce with Associate degrees in Science to remain on the job at the same time adding advanced skills needed in the healthcare field by working on their baccalaureates.

Those unfilled positions are also hitting American wallets. "This represents both a huge cost to our health care system – perhaps more than \$40 million per year in overtime costs alone – and a huge opportunity to prepare many more of our students for rewarding careers," said Dr. Sandy Shugart, president of Valencia College. "Together we have pledged to more than double our collective production of nursing graduates at both the associates and bachelor's levels."

Florida's colleges and universities are already ratcheting up nursing programs to train the next generation of nurses to begin filling those openings. Tallahassee Community College and North Florida Community College in Madison, Florida were recently approved by the State Board to add Bachelors of Science in Nursing Programs. Tallahassee Community College's first baccalaureate class started in summer 2016 with 17 nurses participating.

North Florida Community College hopes to have their first class of up to 50 students begin by spring of 2018 to meet employment projections of more than 425 additional nursing positions in their six-county service district in the coming years.

"Our colleges produce more than 4,500 registered nurses each year that stay right here in Florida to work. Many of our graduates take advantage of our RN-BSN programs that help nurses advance their education while they work as RN's in our local hospitals," says Madeline Pumariega, Chancellor of the Florida College System.

At Monday's meeting, health care providers, businesses, and colleges will outline the overwhelming need and lay out how the colleges' programs align with community demands. As with all Baccalaureate requests from the Florida College System, the State Board of Education will review letters of support from the University of Central Florida as well as major area employers.

"Seminole State has been working closely with the University of Central Florida and our sister colleges to address the shortage of registered nurses, particularly those with bachelor's degrees, and provide our graduates with high-growth, high-paying jobs," says Seminole State College President, Dr. Ann McGee. "Seminole State's Bachelor's in Nursing, which hopes to launch in spring 2018, will complement our Associate in Nursing degree and enable us to help provide the estimated 1,000 new nurses needed each year in Central Florida over the next decade. Our role in the local community is to help our industries meet their hiring goals."

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

Businesses that give back to their communities do well

RICK PAUL & JESSICA LOWE-MINOR
TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT (MY VIEW)

Companies that give back to their communities get more: more customers, more talent, more loyalty and more profits. In fact, a 2014 Nielsen survey of more than 30,000 people in 60 countries found that 67 percent of people would rather work for a socially responsible company, and 55 percent would pay more for a product or service from a company that practices corporate social responsibility.

Fifty-two percent of those surveyed said that they had bought a product or service from a company that practices corporate social responsibility within the last six months. Similarly, Cone Communications found that 87 percent of Americans purchase a product because a company advocates for an issue they care about.

These statistics demonstrate customers and employees get behind businesses that have demonstrated a strong commitment to corporate social responsibility. With its burgeoning entrepreneurial scene and established nonprofit sector, Tallahassee is in a prime position to capitalize on this trend. Locally, the number of companies that strategically partner with charitable causes is growing, and our region has the tools and know-how to become a leader in the corporate social responsibility field.

Two local entities that model this concept are Ekk and Hamilton Realty and the Oasis Center for Women & Girls. Haley Cutler, executive director of the Oasis Center, describes the partnership as “invaluable” and explains that Ekk and Hamilton co-owner Tiffany Hamilton “serves as a great ambassador of our mission and regularly engages our program participants.”

Raised by a single mother, Hamilton views the partnership as a way of giving back and setting Ekk and Hamilton apart from its competitors. When prospective home buyers flip through local real estate magazines, they will notice that Ekk and Hamilton lists the nonprofits it supports, including Oasis, as part of their advertising.

Research shows that women, rather than men, frequently take the lead in home-buying decisions. Thus, Ekk and Hamilton’s philanthropy isn’t just good for the community — it’s also great for business.

On Tuesday, TCC Spark! and the Institute for Nonprofit Innovation and Excellence will co-host an Entrepreneurs’ Forum focusing on ways that for-profit organizations can improve their bottom line through tactical collaboration with nonprofits.

This interactive event will feature a panel of local nonprofit and for-profit business leaders who have entered into strategic partnerships discussing the impact of those relationships on their businesses and the broader community. Each panelist will discuss their own organization and current partnership(s), and will then be invited to answer audience questions. The forum will provide valuable connections as well as practical tools and strategies for businesses of any size.

This unique event is free and open to the public. It starts at 6 p.m. at the TCC Center for Innovation downtown, 300 W. Pensacola St. Public parking is available in Kleman Plaza; additional details are available online at www.TCCspark.com.

TCC announces free safety training event

GADSDEN COUNTY TIMES

The Tallahassee Community College Gadsden Center will offer a free Developing a Continuity of Operations plan training targeted to Gadsden County business owners, employees and community members on Friday, July 28, from 1 to 3 p.m.

Developing a COOP plan allows organizations to identify their essential functions and alternative methods and locations to continue those functions during a disruption of normal activities, such as an extended emergency.

The training will be led by G. W. Lupton, certified emergency manager.

Interested individuals may register by contacting the Gadsden Center at (850) 558-3620 or GadsdenCenter@tcc.fl.edu.

The TCC Gadsden Center is located at 223 Pat Thomas Parkway in Quincy.

This is part of a series of safety trainings. The series finale will be on Saturday, August 26, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., when the Gadsden Center will host Community Safety Awareness Day, featuring community partners, parenting classes and other offerings.

For more information, contact Desiree Gorman at (850) 558-3620 or gorman@tcc.fl.edu.

Oyster vandalism

Markers of aquaculture leases destroyed; a day later, fishermen's association houseboat sinks, retaliation questioned

NANCY IMPERIALE
WAKULLA NEWS

Someone ripped out surveyed marker poles for all the oyster leases in Skipper Bay on Saturday – right before planting – dealing a blow to Wakulla's nascent oyster industry and triggering a criminal investigation.

Wakulla's oyster farmers are offering a reward of \$10,700 so far for information leading to the arrest and conviction of those responsible.

The next day, Sunday night, someone sunk a 45-foot houseboat belonging to the Wakulla Commercial Fishermen's Association. The boat was a refuge for fishermen in storms, the group said. Authorities are investigating.

The acts have exposed a long-simmering feud between the groups. Several people on social media and in private conversation were blaming the fishermen – who have spoken repeatedly against the oyster leases – for the destruction in Skipper Bay.

But the fishermen condemned the act on their Facebook page, and its president denied his members would do such a thing.

"I'm upset about it because I know it's not one of my fishermen," said John Taylor, WCFA president. "A fisherman would not hurt another fisherman. We know how hard it is to buy equipment, and what hard work it is working that bay."

Taylor once participated in the startup oyster aquaculture certification program begun by Tallahassee Community College's Wakulla Environmental Institute. But he said he was dropped from the program after asking questions about money and materials. Taylor sued TCC for negligence, fraud and breach of contract. The suit was settled for \$30,000 in mediation last year. He has since become outspoken against the oyster program.

Taylor said Monday he has no idea who is responsible for the weekend vandalism.

"I can't speculate," he said, "just like I can't speculate on who sunk our boat."

The fishermen's association's 45-foot houseboat sits half-submerged in Spring Creek. Taylor said it was sunk sometime Sunday night, probably from a hole punched in the side.

With two criminal acts in one week, several people worry tensions have escalated to a dangerous point.

"What's to happen before something gives?" said aquaculture farmer Sharon Bradley Fitzgerald. "Somebody's going to end up getting shot."

"I've stated that blood's going to flow over this," said oyster farmer Jeff Tilley. "It's not a personal threat, it's what I'm predicting."

"There will be harsh words said, but I don't think this will turn into an all-out war," said oyster farmer Bob Danzy. "Fishermen live by a code, and oyster people, this ain't our style."

"But there's somebody out there," Danzy added, "who would love to start a fight."

The fight has been brewing since the \$6 million TCC Wakulla Environmental Institute was built last year and launched the oyster aquaculture certificate program. The program's goal is to revive the area's seafood industry, which has been crippled by state regulations like the net ban and threatened by the BP oil spill.

Commercial fishermen argue that they've been working these waters for generations but have been squeezed out by the net ban and decades of state regulations. Now the state is rewarding the more politically connected oyster farmers at their expense, fishermen contend. They have called for a moratorium on more oyster leases until it can be proved they are profitable.

The oystermen and fishermen have held meetings in the past to resolve differences, but these have been filled with angry words and little consensus.

Then Saturday, in the middle of the night, someone destroyed Skipper Bay's oyster leases. It is the second site for oyster farming in Wakulla. Farmers are already working about 32 leases in adjacent Oyster Bay.

Oyster vandalism....

continued

At Skipper Bay, the culprit or culprits pulled out pipes that marked 16 brand-new oyster beds which were about to be planted with baby oysters, called spat, after months of planning, permitting and surveying. The act caused more than \$800,000 in damages and lost profits, farmers estimate.

"It was apparent that whoever did this was against the oyster industry," Danzy said. "They went and pulled our corner markers up and did it at the very last minute to where it would be most effective for their purpose of doing us harm."

An oyster farmer gets an acre-and-a-half to lease, Danzy said, usually in a rectangle shape. Surveyor Thurman Roddenberry had to survey the sites, at a cost of \$26,000 shared by farmers. Then the sites were marked off in a painstaking process that involves pounding dozens of metal and PVC pipes several feet into the sea bed.

"There's no way this was kids messing around," Danzy said. "Whoever did this, that was a lot of work to pull up 64 poles driven four or five feet deep. Most likely they had to tie a boat to them to pull them out.

"So somebody made 64 decisions in a row that said 'I'm going to mess this up.' And it took hours."

While the investigation proceeds, the argument has blown up on social media.

The fishermen's group "is looking pretty red-handed," oyster farmer Reid Tilley wrote in a post on the Wet Net Mullet Fishing Society, a Facebook page he runs for Wakulla anglers.

Tilley said he has compassion for the fishermen and how they've been squeezed out of existence by the net ban.

"The commercial fishermen, rightfully so, believe the state of Florida is taking away their rights by giving these 25 acres of leases for oysters," Tilley said. "I can't stop that. These 25 acres will be out of bounds for them. But the oyster leases create a fabulous environmental nursery for all kinds of sea life! We are bringing these sea beds back to life with these oysters, and crabs, mullet, all kinds of stuff!"

Oysters act as natural water filters, pumping large amounts of water through their bodies as they feed.

"If you calculate how much acreage out there is considered Florida estuary, it would have to be in the gazillions," Tilley said. "So my point to these fishermen is, we're taking 25 acres of what – a million, 10 million acres of estuarine waters? Now is the time to figure out a framework for working with each other. This [oyster] industry is here to stay."

Meanwhile the fisherman's association condemned the oyster lease vandalism on its Facebook page.

The group "and its members respect the right of everyone to earn a living from the waters of Wakulla," the statement reads. "We condemn the theft or destruction of any equipment used for commercial fishing or farming in Wakulla County waters, and any illegal activity which harms the endeavor of others."

"I don't want things to get worse. I want to co-exist with them," said WCFA's Taylor. "But there's no more room in this bay. You can't put us out of business and let this group be in business."

The fishermen's group, which includes crabbers, argues that the oyster leases are usurping coastal waters.

"This is all political," Taylor added. "We've been fighting the state for 23 years. They took our nets 23 years ago so all these fishermen had to come up with something else. They came up with crabbing. But now they want to push crabbers out. We feel like the Indians here, just being pushed away to a reservation."

Taylor said the state has been favoring the oyster farmers, many of whom are professionals with other businesses.

"We're being pushed to the hilt and told, go sit in your rocking chairs, fishermen," Taylor said. "We wish the best for the oystermen, but the state has to step in. And I don't mean the Department of Agriculture, I mean the governor. He needs to come down and look at what's going on here. You can't build an organization for one group and take away from another."

Oyster vandalism....

continued

The commercial fishermen are slated to speak to the Wakulla County Commission at its regular meeting next Monday night. Taylor said they plan to discuss the oyster leases and other issues.

Meanwhile the Panacea Oyster Co-op, a coalition of oyster farmers, gathered this Monday night at Spring Creek Restaurant for their regular meeting. The vandalism came up but did not dominate the discussion, which was more focused on the future than angry about the present.

"This was a very unfortunate incident," Panacea Oyster Co-op CEO Robin Olin told the group of about 30 farmers. "We worked hard to get these leases up. Set up a business to show people how they can make money, support their families, and resurrect these waters for other commercial fishermen. Yet vandalism took place. But it's not the end of it for us. We will overcome. We're bigger than this."

Olin said the co-op will store the spat until farmers can plant them. It will also offer short-term loans and whatever else farmers need to get their poles back in the water as quickly as possible.

One of the oystermen at the meeting was Wakulla County Commissioner Jerry Moore, who owned one of the vandalized leases. Moore said the damage is more serious than some knocked-over poles.

"Those were 16 leases – 16 people – each with 100,000 oysters estimated to generate \$50,000 in a one-year period," Moore said. "Now they've been delayed by at least three months. So that's the total cost of this thing. It's not just harassment, it's a felony-level cost."

There remained some confusion over which agency is handling the investigation. Although the Wakulla County Sheriff's Office, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission and the Department of Agriculture have all been contacted, because the crime occurred over state waters on areas which were in the middle of being leased, the agency of jurisdiction was still being investigated.

Oyster farmers hope the culprits will be caught soon.

"Once an arrest is made and we make an example of the people doing this, I think it will help the situation greatly," said Sharon Bradley Fitzgerald.

One of the most experienced oyster farmers in Wakulla, Fitzgerald has been doing it three years and also farms oysters in Franklin County. She comes from an old Wakulla fishing family.

"I wanted to help bring oysters back to life in Wakulla County. You know, they used to be here in abundance, that's why it's called Oyster Bay!" she said. "I've been in it for three years and trying to build a crop and have a rotation and when people steal your crop and destroy the property that you put your blood, sweat and tears into it to build..." Fitzgerald put her hand to her neck as if she was being choked, tired after a long day of seeing her oyster bed ruined.

But like the rest of the oystermen, she is not giving up. She has handed it over to a higher power.

"I finally gave it all to God," she said. "I stopped crying, I stopped hanging out on the bank all night with my night-vision goggles watching my leases. And I prayed, Please help us. Please protect our leases and change the people's hearts that are destroying our livelihood."

Broward College best in state for certifications

CAITLIN RANDLE
SUN SENTINEL

For the fourth consecutive year, Broward College was ranked first in the state for the number of industry certifications earned by students.

Industry certifications are tests students can take that show they meet the established industry standard in a field. Some of the most popular fields students get certified in are health sciences, public safety and supply-chain management.

"Certifications compliment a degree," said Renato Cortez, a certification specialist at Broward College. "It gives them an advantage and an edge over other applicants who just have a degree."

Broward College awarded more than 1,300 certifications in the 2016-2017 school year; Hillsborough Community College in Tampa ranked second with over 1,100 industry certifications.

Most of the time, students have to complete their degree requirements before they have the option to be certified in a field. But there are some cases where a certification is enough, Cortez said.

For example, those with technology certifications can apply for entry-level Information Technology jobs.

And in the two-year automotive program at Broward College, students have the option to take different certification tests while working towards their degree.

The Florida Legislature recently gave Broward College more than \$1 million as an incentive award because its students earned the most certifications.

"The president has committed that half of that will go back to the Industry Certification Department," said Mildrid Coyne, Executive Director of Career and Workforce Solutions at Broward College.

She said the funds will also go towards testing centers and grants to offset the costs of the certification tests, which vary by program but can cost from as low as \$28 to upwards of several hundred dollars.

Industry certification rankings in Florida College System:

1. Broward College — 1,339
2. Hillsborough Community College — 1,122
3. Indian River State College — 811
4. Daytona State College — 796
5. St. Petersburg College — 731
6. Palm Beach State College — 633
7. Santa Fe College — 619
8. Valencia College — 618
9. Eastern Florida State College — 504
10. Seminole State College of Florida — 488
11. Miami Dade College — 448
12. **Tallahassee Community College — 442**
13. College of Central Florida — 421
14. Pasco-Hernando State College — 421
15. Northwest Florida State College — 401
16. Pensacola State College — 294
17. Gulf Coast State College — 270
18. Florida SouthWestern State College — 262
19. Florida State College at Jacksonville — 227
20. St. Johns River State College — 226
21. South Florida State College — 220
22. Polk State College — 201
23. Florida Gateway College — 196
24. Chipola College — 169
25. North Florida Community College — 166
26. State College of Florida, Manatee-Sarasota — 94
27. Lake-Sumter State College — 80
28. Florida Keys Community College — 68

Local paramedic and TCC alum wins award

TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT (SPONSORED STORY)

Congratulations to Jessica Daniels, who recently won the Leon County Excellence in EMS – Field Provider of the Year Award. Daniels, who graduated from both the Emergency Medical Technician and Paramedic programs at Tallahassee Community College, credits the instructors and advisers at TCC with much of her success.

“They saw my potential and motivated me,” Daniels said. “The program at TCC was a life changer for me.”

Daniels entered TCC right after graduating from high school but struggled to find her passion, did poorly and dropped out. In her mid-20s, she returned to Tallahassee as a single mother of two, knowing that she needed to get an education to support her family. She began to consider healthcare options and enrolled in a first responder class, where she fell in love with the idea of becoming a paramedic.

“Being able to help people in need is so rewarding,” she said.

While at TCC Daniels made the Dean’s list, went straight into the Paramedic program after completing the EMT program, and was able to pass the board exams on her first try. Today she is a full-time paramedic with Leon County and was just promoted to the rank of lieutenant. She also serves as a paramedic preceptor, mentoring a student each semester and overseeing the student’s clinical training.

Four years ago, Daniels returned to TCC to earn certification as a critical care paramedic. She is also considering going to nursing school someday, but for now she is raising her boys and working to be the best paramedic she can be, a lesson she said she learned at TCC.

“TCC was fabulous. You had to be willing to put in the work, but every tool I needed to succeed was there for the taking.”

Law enforcement, firefighter recruits receive awards

TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT (CAMPUS NOTES)

The Florida Public Safety Institute named several award recipients among its graduating law enforcement and firefighter recruits. The Institute is part of Tallahassee Community College.

Law enforcement recruit Jonathan Chitty was awarded the Sgt. Dale Green Memorial Award, given to a recruit who embodies the characteristics of a true leader and shows commitment to his success and to the success of classmates.

Charles Condor received the Executive Director's Award for top academic performance. He also received an award for most improvement in physical training. Giovanni Fonseca received the Top Gun Award and the Top Defensive Tactics Award. Richard Weiss received the Physical Training Award, and Rakeem Davis received the Top Driving Award. Brandon Ryland received the Deputy Chris Smith Memorial Award.

From the Fire Academy, Brandon Ceasor received the Isaac Royal Memorial Award, which recognizes the firefighter recruit who leads by example and mobilizes and unifies people.

Madison McNeas received the Executive Officer Award, and Joshua Futrell earned the High Academic Award. Anthony Johnson received the Sergeant at Arms Award, and Jack Kearney was chosen by his classmates as winner of the Leadership Award.

Best companies to work for in Florida 2017: Best SMALL companies (15 to 49 employees; ranking indicates company, headquarters, industry and notable benefits)

FLORIDA TREND

- 1 | Jill S. Schwartz & Associates, Winter Park, Legal | Movie nights
- 2 | CAREERXCHANGE, Miami, Staffing | Superior work rewarded with two hours off on any day
- 3 | Bit-Wizards, Fort Walton Beach, Technology | Free beverages, dart board, flex time, monthly social events
- 4 | Atlas Professional Services, Tampa, Technology | Weekly, bi-weekly, monthly, quarterly, annual awards and contests
- 5 | Patel, Greene & Associates, Bartow, Engineering | 100% company-paid health, dental and vision insurance premiums (for employee/spouse/family)
- 6 | Alltrust Insurance, Palm Harbor, Health Insurance | Catered lunches weekly; appreciation gatherings monthly
- 7 | Clickbooth.com, Sarasota, Advertising, PR, Marketing | Free gym access; beer cart Friday
- 8 | Meenan P.A., Tallahassee, Legal | Year-end bonuses
- 9 | Uproar PR, Orlando, Advertising, PR, Marketing | Half-day Fridays
- 10 | Clearview Land Design, Tampa, Civil Engineering | Annual oyster roast
- 11 | CPS Investment Advisors, Lakeland, Financial Services | Building equipped with solar panels to reduce electricity consumption
- 12 | Diverse Computing, Tallahassee, Technology | Free lunch every day
- 13 | Forcura, Jacksonville, Technology | Friday happy hours with beverages and games
- 14 | ISGF, Orlando, Staffing | Mid-year cruise to the Bahamas
- 15 | Partners in Association Management, Tallahassee, Association Management | Financial transparency policy and quarterly review of company financials
- 16 | Markham Norton Mosteller Wright & Co., Fort Myers, Accounting | Fun committee for planning parties and activities to encourage friendships and productivity
- 17 | Jimerson & Cobb P.A., Jacksonville, Legal | Competitions to boost morale, such as office mini golf and pumpkin bowling
- 18 | Centauri Insurance, Sarasota, Insurance | Fully stocked kitchen with healthy meal options for breakfast and lunch
- 19 | Foundation Art Services, Deerfield Beach, Manufacturing | Company pays half of gym fee up to \$180 per month
- 20 | Vaco Orlando, Orlando, Staffing | Weekly massages
- 21 | Cardinal Management Group of Florida, Naples, Services | Summer hours
- 22 | Net Conversion, Orlando, Advertising, PR, Marketing | Rap Fridays and Snuggies for the staff
- 23 | JWB Real Estate Capital, Jacksonville, Real Estate | Catered lunch daily
- 24 | Rogers, Gunter, Vaughn Insurance, Tallahassee, Insurance | On-site gym and shower**
- 25 | Worksite Employee Leasing, North Port, Services | Free lunch every Wednesday
- 26 | Squarmouth, St. Petersburg, Insurance | Quarterly bonuses based on profit
- 27 | Moore Communications Group, Tallahassee, Advertising, PR, Marketing | 100% of employee's health care premiums paid by company**
- 28 | Ennis, Pellum & Associates, Jacksonville, Accounting | Employees can leave at 1 p.m. on Fridays during the summer
- 29 | CNP, Winter Haven, Advertising, PR, Marketing | Unlimited vacation/sick time
- 30 | One Park Financial, Miami, Financial Services | Company happy hours and employee potlucks
-
- (NOTE: This list truncated for relevance to TCC. District Board of Trustees members Kevin Vaughn and Karen B. Moore, respectively, represent the highlighted companies.)

TCC offers credit courses at more locations

TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT (SPONSORED STORY)

There is still time to enroll in Tallahassee Community College for the upcoming Fall semester.

The main Fall session runs from August 21 to December 8, but there are also two express sessions that begin on the same date and offer an accelerated schedule. The August Mini session runs from August 21 to September 18, while August Express goes from August 21 to October 11.

Students who would prefer to start classes after the weather turns a bit cooler can choose the September Express session, which runs from September 25 to December 8, or October Express, from October 17 to December 8.

Flexible scheduling is not the only strategy TCC is using to meet the varying needs of students. The College has also expanded the menu of college credit courses offered at two of its satellite locations, in order to provide more convenience for those who do not live close to the main campus.

Two general education courses, Earth Science and Mathematics I for Liberal Arts, will now be offered at the Wakulla Environmental Institute in Crawfordville, which opened during TCC's 50th anniversary year in 2016. Both courses will meet on Tuesday evenings and include substantial amounts of online instruction and coursework.

The Ghazvini Center for Healthcare Education, located in central Tallahassee, is presenting new general education course offerings as well. In-person options include Introduction to Biological Sciences, Anatomy and Physiology I, College Composition, Introduction to Business, Introduction to the Humanities, Mathematics I for Liberal Arts, General Psychology, and College Success.

Details can be found on the TCC website at www.tcc.fl.edu/new-at-tcc. Those who are not already TCC students will need to enroll in the College before registering for courses. They may do so by visiting www.tcc.fl.edu/apply.

TCC to offer Mental Health First Aid course

TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT (CAMPUS NOTES)

Tallahassee Community College will offer a training course in Mental Health First Aid for community members on Saturday, August 5, from 8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. in the Center for Workforce Development on TCC's main campus.

The course aims to improve the public's knowledge of mental health, substance abuse and connecting people with care. Participants will learn a five-step action plan to help loved ones, colleagues, neighbors and others cope with mental health or substance use problems until professional treatment can be obtained or the crisis is resolved. The one-day course is taught by Jennifer Barr, LCSW. Those who complete the requirements will be eligible to receive certification from Mental Health First Aid USA.

Check-in for the course is from 8 to 8:20 a.m. in the Workforce Development lobby. The course costs \$69 and registration is limited to 25 individuals.

For information on how to register, contact Kristina Finch at (850) 201-8069 or pereirak@tcc.fl.edu.

(NOTE: This story also appeared in the Thursday, July 27, 2017 edition of the Wakulla News.)

TCC financial aid director recognized

TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT (CAMPUS NOTES)

Bill Spiers, director of financial aid at Tallahassee Community College, received a Distinguished Service Award from the Florida Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators.

The award recognizes a person who has made a significant contribution to the financial aid community at the national, regional or state level.

The award was presented as part of the FASFAA's 50th anniversary celebration. In those 50 years, only 30 people have been recognized with the award.

Spiers has led the Financial Aid Office since 1997. Before joining TCC, he was the director of student financial assistance at Jacksonville University.

He served as president of the FASFAA in 1989-1990.

Spiers is well known in the Big Bend for leading free financial aid workshops for high school students and their families.

FSU, FAMU and TCC join force to help curb city crime

ST. CLAIR MURRAINE
CAPITAL OUTLOOK

Tallahassee Police Department and Leon County Sheriff have been making an added push lately to tackle criminal activities in the city and county after a recent FDLE report ranked crime in the area as highest in the state.

The two law enforcement agencies aren't going at it alone, though. The city's two universities and Tallahassee Community College are lending a hand. The heads of the police departments at FSU, FAMU, and TCC say they are helping by taking proactive measures to curtail crime on their campuses.

"While we can't prevent all things from happening, we are prepared," said Greg Gibson, a veteran in law enforcement who has been TCC's police chief for four months. "We are always training to be well prepared and we are always reminding ourselves how important vigilance is for response in a serious situation."

The campus police chiefs were asked to respond to city commissioner Curtis Richardson's concern over how the city's crime rate could affect enrollment at the three schools. Richardson expressed his concern during a recent update on crime given by TPD chief Michael DeLeo at a City Commission meeting.

Richardson's concern doesn't surprise FAMU student George Byford Jr., who said he recently completed a paper on college campus crimes. His research showed that assaults rank higher than he expected, he said.

"Whenever you get a concentration of a big group of people, you're bound to have bad apples," he said. "That's the way I look at it. It's a large concentration of students from different backgrounds and everybody wasn't raised the same."

The report on the city's crime rate didn't breakdown what crimes are committed on college campuses. However, DeLeo reminded commissioners that crime at the schools is a part of the city's statistics.

According to the FDLE report crime dropped 4 percent statewide, however, in Leon County, the crime rate increased almost 7 percent.

FDLE reported that crime was 5,655.4 per 100,000 residents.

"We are a microcosm of what happens in the city," said FSU Assistant Vice President for Public Safety and Chief of Police David Perry. "Maybe not with the high level frequency."

An Outlook survey of students at FAMU and FSU showed that while they know about crime on campus, they didn't know that those illegal activities add to the city's statistics. Colleges and universities, however, are required by the Jeanne Clery Act to report the number of crimes on campus annually. Florida also has a similar mandate.

FSU had an uptick of 33 percent in crime over last year, although most are minor. According to Collegefactual.com, FSU's on campus violent and property crimes is on par with the national average.

There was one arrest for drug violation in 2015, according to TCC's report. Domestic violence is the highest, although those cases were reduced from nine in 2014 to six in 2015.

FAMU's police chief Terence Holloway reported a 50 percent drop in campus crime over the last two years.

Meanwhile, the schools have reported that enrollment is up. Law enforcement authorities have indicated that the more students on campus generally make the school ripe for criminal activities.

Students being vigilant is an effective way to keep down the crime rate on each campus, the chiefs at the three schools said.

"While we can't prevent all things from happening, we are prepared," said Gibson. "We are always training to be well prepared and we are always reminding ourselves how important vigilance is for response in a serious situation."

The three campuses have used many of the same measures — visible police presence, security cameras and text alerts to inform students when there's crime on campus or even in near-by areas. FAMU also uses an escort driver for added safety, Holloway said.

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

TCC Wakulla Center offers computer lab for Wakulla residents

WAKULLA NEWS (NEWS BRIEFS)

Did you know that the TCC Wakulla Center has a fully-equipped computer lab that is free for community members to use?

The computers at the Center can be used from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. to do schoolwork (whether you're a TCC student or a student elsewhere) as well as work activities.

The computers are also open to people doing an online search for a job or for writing resumes and cover letters (which we can help review).

TCC wants the community to get the most out of the place! Visit your TCC Wakulla Center today and see what we have available!

The Tallahassee Community College Wakulla Center is located at 2932 Crawfordville Highway in Crawfordville. The phone number is (850) 558-3525.

For more information, you can contact us by email at wakullacenter@tcc.fl.edu or by phone at (850) 558-3525.

Need access to a computer?

GADSDEN COUNTY TIMES (SHORT TAKES)

The TCC Gadsden Center has a fully equipped computer lab that is free for community members to use. The computers at the Center can be used from 8 to 5 to do school work (whether you're a TCC student or a student elsewhere) and can be used for work activities.

They are also open to people doing an online search for a job or for writing resumes and cover letters (which the TCC staff can help review).

TCC Wakulla Center admissions event helps students sign up

WAKULLA NEWS

Prospective Tallahassee Community College students attended a one-stop recruitment event Thursday, July 20 at the TCC Wakulla Center.

The College's "Arrive. Apply. Accepted" event series is designed to provide interested individuals an efficient, convenient means of enrolling at TCC. The Wakulla Center event was the second installment in the series.

TCC staff were on hand to help attendees complete admissions applications and financial aid forms, including the Free Application for Federal Student Aid. In addition, advisers assisted with course registration.

Attendees also learned about new course options at the Wakulla Environmental Institute, which is offering for-credit classes for the first time in Fall 2017. Students may enroll in Earth Science (ESC1000) and/or Mathematics I for Liberal Arts (MGF1106).

Both courses are scheduled to meet on Tuesday evenings; ESC1000 will meet at 6 p.m., while MGF1106 will meet at 7:30 p.m. Substantial amounts of instruction and coursework for both hybrid courses will take place online. More information is available at www.tcc.fl.edu/new-at-tcc.

For those who were unable to attend, the Wakulla Center offers an "Ask the Expert" kiosk for assistance with applying to TCC, course registration, advising and many other needs. The kiosk is available during the Center's regular business hours, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. The TCC Wakulla Center is located at 2932 Crawfordville Highway in Crawfordville. For more info contact Christen Givens at (850) 201-8466 or bennettc@tcc.fl.edu.

Scholarship fundraiser honoring fallen soldier this Saturday

DANNY MCAULIFFE
TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT

The King Family will host the 7th Annual Brandon M. King Memorial Scholarship Fundraiser 4 p.m. Saturday at the Dogwood House off Capital Circle.

Army Pfc. Brandon M. King planned to graduate college after returning from Afghanistan but was killed in action.

Now Tallahassee Community College students are awarded each year with contributions made in the 23-year-old fallen soldier's memory.

TCC hosts fifth part of safety series in Gadsden County

WTXL

Tallahassee Community College is holding their fifth workshop in a safety series for area businesses.

Friday's workshop focused on "developing a continuity of operations plan training."

These plans allow business owners to be ready if disaster strikes, so they can quickly deal with any situation and return to normal operations as soon as possible.

Part six in the series will be held on August 26th, which is Community Safety Awareness Day.

TCC offers course to help community deal with mental health, substance abuse issues

ASHLEY RICHMOND
WTLX

When it comes to helping those around you deal with mental health issues, there's a class for that.

Tallahassee Community College is offering a Mental Health First Aid course. The goal is to help people better understand mental health and substance abuse issues.

Those who take part learn a five-step action plan to help friends, family, co-workers and neighbors cope in a crisis situation.

"What we know about adult mental health issues is that it impacts about one in five adults in the United States over the course of their lifetime," said Jennifer Barr, TCC's Director of Student Services. "Often times, people don't seek help so it's really important that if we notice that someone might be struggling or experiencing signs and symptoms of mental illness that we have a few things that we can say to help link them to appropriate help."

Community members can still sign up for the Mental Health First Aid course. It will be held on Saturday, August 5, from 8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. in the Center for Workforce Development on TCC's main campus. Those who complete the requirements will be eligible to receive certification from Mental Health First Aid USA.

The course costs \$69 and registration is limited to 25 individuals. For information on how to register, contact Kristina Finch at (850) 201-8069 or pereirak@tcc.fl.edu.

TCC Dental Assisting students graduate

TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT (CAMPUS NOTES)

TCC's Dental Assisting program recently graduated eight students.

Graduating student Angela White received the Dr. Mary Anne Butler Excellence Award and a \$1000 scholarship, while Tonisha Walton received the Professionalism Award.

The Dental Assisting program, which was formerly a Postsecondary Adult Vocational program, will become a college-credit Applied Technology Diploma program beginning in the fall of 2017. Those interested in applying for the program should contact TCC's Healthcare Professions Division at 558-4500 or healthedu@tcc.fl.edu, or visit www.tcc.fl.edu/healthcare.

Small college tops performance funding list

LLOYD DUNKELBERGER

LEE HERALD/NEWS SERVICE OF FLORIDA

Chipola College, the second-smallest institution among Florida's 28 state colleges, was the top-ranked school in an annual evaluation tied to performance funding.

The school, which serves about 3,100 students in Marianna, received the highest point total in the state's performance assessment, which measures colleges on issues such as retention of students, graduation times and job placement.

The assessment is important because it will guide the distribution of \$30 million in state performance funding to schools in the academic year that began July 1. The state money is combined with \$30 million in funding from the colleges to create a \$60 million performance-funding program.

In Chipola's case, by reaching the top performance tier, which is known as the "gold" colleges, the school will receive a total of \$752,000 in performance funding in 2017-18, including more than \$473,000 in state funds.

Chipola was one of seven state colleges to reach the gold level this year, an improvement over last fall, when only three schools reached that level.

Santa Fe College and Valencia College remained at the gold level and were joined by five schools, including Chipola, that improved enough from last year to rise from the second tier, known as "silver" schools, to reach the highest level.

The other gold schools were Palm Beach State College, Eastern Florida State College, Seminole State College of Florida and South Florida State College.

Lake-Sumter State College dropped from the gold level last year to silver this year. It was joined by 14 other silver-level colleges that will receive a portion of the \$30 million in state performance funding, ranging from \$4.4 million for Miami-Dade College, the system's largest school, to about \$196,000 for North Florida Community College.

Florida SouthWestern State College rose from last year's "bronze" level, where the schools do not receive state performance funding, to the silver and will receive about \$782,000 in state funding this year.

Six schools fell into this year's bronze category, meaning they will not receive any share of the \$30 million in state performance funding but will be able to access shares of their own "institutional" performance funding.

Hillsborough Community College and Pasco-Hernando State College fell out of the silver category into this year's bronze. The other bronze colleges were College of Central Florida, Pensacola State College, Polk State College and Northwest Florida State College.

Pensacola State and Polk State improved from last year's "purple" rating, where they received no state performance funding and had their institutional funding frozen until they showed improvement.

On the performance metrics, the 28 schools generally performed well on starting salaries for graduates and for graduates either moving into jobs or continuing their educations.

But the schools faced more significant challenges in retaining students from year to year and in graduating them in a timely manner.

Valencia had the highest retention rate, measured at 69 percent for students who returned for another year in the fall of 2014 and Northwest Florida State College had the lowest rate at 56.6 percent.

In graduation time, Santa Fe had the highest rate of students earning two-year degrees within three years of their enrollment at 78 percent in 2013. Pensacola State had the lowest rate, at 38 percent.

The performance metrics were part of a higher-education policy debate during the 2017 legislative session, with Senate President Joe Negron, R-Stuart, pushing for a more-stringent measurement of graduation times for state college and university students. But the performance changes died when Gov. Rick Scott vetoed the policy bill (SB 374).

Small college tops performance funding list....

continued

Here is a list showing how much money each college will receive. The first number is a total of state and institutional performance funding, with the state portion listed in parenthesis.

GOLD COLLEGES:

Santa Fe College: \$2.6 million (\$1.63 million)
 Eastern Florida State College: \$2.99 million (\$1.88 million)
 Chipola College: \$752,000 (\$473,417)
 Palm Beach State College: \$4.1 million (\$2.58 million)
 Seminole State College of Florida: \$3.1 million (\$1.9 million)
 South Florida State College: \$1.1 million (\$672,246)
 Valencia College: \$5.8 million (\$3.65 million)

SILVER COLLEGES:

Broward College: \$4.46 million (\$2.23 million)
 Daytona State College: \$2.55 million (\$1.27 million)
 Florida SouthWestern State College: \$1.56 million (\$781,577)
 Florida State College at Jacksonville: \$3.88 million (\$1.94 million)
 Florida Keys Community College: \$355,000 (\$177,720)
 Gulf Coast State College: \$1.13 million (\$562,885)
 Indian River State College: \$2.5 million (\$1.25 million)
 Florida Gateway College: \$668,000 (\$334,174)
 Lake-Sumter State College: \$713,000 (\$356,633)
 Miami Dade College: \$8.75 million (\$4.4 million)
 State College of Florida, Manatee-Sarasota: \$1.3 million (\$636,272)

North Florida Community College: \$391,000 (\$195,613)
 St. Johns River State College: \$997,000 (\$498,307)
 St. Petersburg College: \$3.5 million (\$1.76 million)

Tallahassee Community College: \$1.6 million (\$814,735)

BRONZE COLLEGES (these colleges do not receive shares of the state performance money):

College of Central Florida: \$555,707
 Hillsborough Community College: \$1.7 million
 Northwest Florida State College: \$480,000
 Pasco-Hernando State College: \$802,000
 Pensacola State College: \$876,476
 Polk State College: \$772,393

Former TCC student now teaching future nurses

TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT (SPONSORED STORY)

Tallahassee Community College nursing alumnae V. Doreen Wagner has been admitted as a member of the International Nursing Association, a network of nursing professionals working to create new possibilities in the treatment and diagnosis of disease and improve the quality of life. Wagner's admission coincides with her upcoming listing in "Worldwide Leaders in Healthcare."

Wagner began her career as a periodontal assistant. However, she soon realized she wanted to become a nurse and decided to enroll at TCC. Although she struggled with the rigorous curriculum and with juggling two jobs, Wagner stuck with it and became a registered nurse.

After graduation she relocated to Atlanta, practicing as a nurse for about 10 years before she was offered an educational position within the hospital.

"TCC had obviously given me enough of a solid background that I felt technically competent to take the offer," said Wagner.

However, she also realized that she needed to go back to school to learn how to be an educator. Over the next several years Wagner earned a masters degree and began teaching at DeKalb College. She then went on to earn a doctoral degree in nursing science, which would give her the knowledge and credentials needed to lead research projects and teach at the university level.

In 2007 Wagner earned her doctorate from the University of South Florida, focusing her research on how stress impacts the mind and body. Today, as an associate professor of nursing at Kennesaw State University, she conducts clinical studies with surgical patients and with nursing students. She is also still teaching, helping to educate nurses in medical surgical nursing, pathophysiology and research.

For Wagner, TCC was "a great stepping stone." As an educator, she believes very much in the importance of community colleges.

"Two-year programs can help students like myself find success, not failure."

TCC starts hiring freeze, other cuts

BYRON DOBSON

TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT

An across-the-board hiring freeze has been instituted through Oct. 31 at Tallahassee Community College in response to cuts in state funding and a projected 2.5 percent decline in enrollment.

The hiring freeze, effective July 1, is expected to save the college \$1 million. Some positions in academic affairs will remain vacant until hiring begins for the spring semester, said Barbara Wills, vice president for administrative services and chief business officer.

"TCC is fully prepared for the fall semester," Wills said. "The hiring freeze was implemented July 1 across the board, for all positions. However, we will continue to evaluate vacant positions, and those that become vacant, to determine critical need."

At the June District Board of Trustees meeting, TCC President Jim Murdaugh said the college will be taking steps to reduce costs that will force each department to tighten expenses for the upcoming year.

TCC saw a 6 percent cut in state money, or \$2.9 million. But that has since been reduced since the college has received \$814,735 in performance funding, bringing the loss to \$2.1 million.

The projected 2.5 percent drop in enrollment translates into a loss of about \$864,000. Murdaugh has said there will be no employee raises in the new budget year.

Wills said faculty hiring usually is done in spring for the fall semester, so any current vacant faculty positions are likely to stay that way until next year.

She said fewer than five other campus positions have been deleted, all of which were vacant. No current employees have lost jobs.

"An example is the vacant assistant director of facilities position," Wills said. "The duties and responsibilities of this position were distributed to others in the department."

Here are other reductions as a result of the budget:

Reduction in staff professional development budgets (\$75,000).

"We reallocated funds to all departments according to the number of employees," Wills said. "We recognized a very small saving but achieved equity across campus."

Twelve-percent reduction to non-instructional OPS (\$250,000).

"We did not cut any OPS positions," Wills said. "We reduced by 12 percent the amount of budget our managers have available to them for non-instructional OPS assignments. This means that they may hire individuals for fewer hours, or at a lower rate, or for fewer projects. OPS is temporary part-time, so we are charging managers to reduce how much they spend."

Adjustments to adjunct pay (\$35,000).

Wills said regular adjunct pay has not changed.

"What we are addressing are employees in administrative or professional roles at the college (but not faculty) who may teach a class and were paid at a rate higher than traditional adjuncts," she said. "We have now corrected this so that all adjuncts are paid the same. An example may be a full-time accountant with the college who teaches an accounting class. They will be paid as an adjunct at the regular adjunct rate."

Miscellaneous reduced expenses. The college is looking at a \$325,000 savings by having merchant fees passed on to those using credit cards.

When someone pays TCC using a credit card online, there is an additional fee charged by the bank that TCC had been covering, Wills said. That fee now will be the responsibility of anyone who goes online to pay the college.

In addition, the college will be reducing third-party contracts in Human Relations. Wills said TCC is reviewing current outside contracts for services that could be handled in-house.

"We will not renew some contracts for vendors," she said.

The total proposed cuts amount to about \$1.7 million. Wills said the college will continue to look at other cost savings and make adjustments, as determined by actual enrollment.

TCC officials say enrollment is declining

WTVL

Officials at Tallahassee Community College say, they're seeing a decline in enrollment this year.

They say universities and community colleges across the state are all facing a declines.

Officials say it can be attributed to changes in the economy.

Due to the enrollment drop, TCC's budget had about a 2-percent decrease, which is about 850,000 dollars.

The school is trying to minimize the impact to students, doing what they can to save money.

TCC says they'll continue to help students at their centers in Gadsden and Wakulla, but there will be impacts to services.

TCC Summer Academy promotes student success in math, STEM

WAKULLA NEWS

Ten Tallahassee Community College students got the chance to participate in a unique academic program aimed at refreshing mathematics skills and sparking interest in science, technology, engineering and math studies.

TCC's Summer Academy provided students who self-identified or were recommended as needing improvement in the area of math with an opportunity to hone their skills free of charge, all while working in two teams of five to build Raspberry Pi computers and use them to develop innovative projects in the College's Lei Wang STEM Center. The camp ran July 10-20 on TCC's main campus.

"Offering first-time-in-college students an opportunity to connect with the College, TCC instructors, support services and each other is an incredibly rewarding experience," said Marcus Nicolas, associate dean for academic partnerships and college success. Nicolas and Demetrius Rice, STEM Center coordinator, collaborated to facilitate the program.

All students who completed the Summer Academy received three hours of college credit, as well as a \$500 scholarship courtesy of the TCC Foundation.

The program was offered free of charge thanks to the generosity of TCC's Academic Affairs, Student Affairs and Financial Aid offices, the Title III program and the TCC Foundation.

TCC student shares her passion for science

TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT (SPONSORED STORY)

Phoebe Barnes is one of the most visible representatives of TCC's STEM Center. She attends program meetings, takes photos at outreach events for local children and even helped set up the center's instructional technology lab. So, when Demetrius Rice, the center's coordinator, was looking for a student to staff the reception desk and help with the center's website, he immediately thought of Barnes, whom he calls a "jack of all trades."

The sophomore moved to Tallahassee from Maryland in 2016 when her mother enrolled in graduate school at Florida State University. She plans to major in chemistry at FSU or Florida A & M University and eventually become a researcher and educator.

Barnes has wanted to be a chemist since she was a child.

"I remember being at a family reunion and someone asked me what I wanted to be, and I said, 'a chemist,' and I was like, five. But I had no idea what it meant. I think it probably stemmed from 'Harry Potter' and being a 'potions master.' But, of course, it grew from there and I was just attracted to the sciences in general—how I could understand the world at a different level."

Barnes enjoys working with equations and working in the lab, but really loves being in the field, where she can "get [her] hands dirty."

While still in Maryland she did an internship at the Paul S. Sarbanes Coastal Ecology Center. She was also part of a group of students that took science activities to local elementary schools.

So, when Barnes came to TCC, she was glad to learn that she would still be able to get involved in a wide range of STEM activities.

"I always wanted to be able to connect concepts, things that are kind of challenging for people to digest, and make it in an easier, simpler format. Being in the STEM Center I've been able to do that. And, personally, I love outreach and getting into the community too."

Building Legacies Women's Leadership Summit: Women who Lead, Serve, Inspire

TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT (CAMPUS NOTES)

On Wednesday, Sept. 6 from 8:30 a.m. to noon, Tallahassee Community College's Center for Innovation at 300 West Pensacola Street will host the third of its four-part Building Legacies Women's Leadership Summit series featuring influential women who are making substantive impacts in the College's tri-county service area, state and nation. This session of the "Women Who Lead, Serve and Inspire" series will focus on women who serve by giving back through their time, talent and/or treasures.

Pamella Butler, founder and owner of Aegis Business Technologies, will deliver the keynote address. Guest panelists include Tracey Cohen, president of Target Print & Mail; Berneice Cox, president of the Bacall Group; and Kristin Dozier, Leon County Commissioner. The event costs \$30 to attend. Preregistration is required and tickets may be purchased at <http://tccwomeninleadership.com>. Proceeds will benefit the Building Legacies Scholarship at TCC.

For more information, contact Ranie Thompson at 201-6064 or thompson@tcc.fl.edu.

TCC to debut New Student Convocation

TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT (CAMPUS NOTES)

Tallahassee Community College will host its first ever New Student Convocation Friday, August 18, from 8:30 to 1 p.m. in the Lifetime Sports Complex to officially welcome all new students to the campus and mark the beginning of their collegiate journey.

TCC President Jim Murdaugh will welcome students along with Sheri Rowland, vice president for student affairs. Students will learn more about what to expect on the first day of class, the First Year Experience (FYE) at TCC and how to get involved and be successful in college. Students can also meet the deans and faculty of the College, learn more about academic enrichment programs, and explore the campus.

All incoming freshmen and transfer students are encouraged to attend, and should RSVP at www.tcc.fl.edu/convocation. For information, contact Michael Coleman at (850) 201-6140 or colemanm@tcc.fl.edu.

Analysts answer: What do CIOs need to consider for cloud strategy?

KASEY PANETTA

SMARTER WITH GARTNER

When it comes to cloud, strategy is key. But developing that strategy can be easier said than done. In exploring cloud as a theme for Gartner Symposium/ITxpo 2017, Smarter With Gartner reached out to our analysts to find out what CIOs should consider when building and implementing a cloud strategy.

What do CIOs need to consider when it comes to cloud strategy?

Ed Anderson, vice president and distinguished analyst at Gartner:

Establishing a cloud strategy should be a priority for every organization. When done well, a cloud strategy will outline the key factors that help organizations adopt cloud computing as an operating model and a technology. Cloud strategies can bring together organizational constituencies through common definitions, clear benefits and risks — and through a process to move forward in the adoption and effective use of cloud.

Daryl Plummer, vice president and Gartner fellow at Gartner:

The savvy CIO will recognize that to do cloud right, you have to focus on what you want to do and what the outcomes will be. Trying to build a cloud strategy by just looking at the infrastructure will only lead to infrastructure myopia. A great cloud strategy will focus on what the cloud lets you do rather than the details of how you do it early on.

Rick Holgate, research director at Gartner:

Three questions to ask:

Do you share an understanding of why your organization is considering cloud and the benefits you're seeking?

Do you have a decision framework for placement of workloads, including application portfolio readiness and prioritization?

Are you ready for cloud, both within IT (i.e., with the right skills and organization) and organizationally (i.e., prepared for the impending change)?

David Mitchell Smith, vice president and Gartner fellow:

CIOs need a cloud strategy that focuses on strategy and is based on realistic planning and assumptions. Many jump in and focus on implementation details, checklists and vendor selection criteria (which are necessary) but would benefit from having a real strategy first. That strategy needs to begin and end with business goals and should be based on reality (not tainted by myriad myths and misconceptions).

Bret Ingerman, VP for information technology at Tallahassee Community College, Smarter With Gartner editorial advisory board:

The standard answer would be to assess IT's organizational readiness and appetite for moving services to the cloud. But another consideration is equally, if not more important: What is the readiness and appetite of other areas of your organization with respect to cloud? If they are more ready and more eager for cloud solutions than central IT, then you likely will have a problem on your hands.

Other areas of the organization often can make independent decisions to move to the cloud, leaving the CIO in a reactive posture, with the very likely need to integrate and authorize services after the fact. CIOs should immediately consider meeting with key stakeholders regarding their interest in cloud so that the IT organization can partner with other business units on a strategy and timeline that fits the overall needs and appetite of the organization.

TCC invites students to first-ever Convocation

WAKULLA NEWS

WHAT: New Student Convocation 2017

WHEN: Friday, August 18, 2017, from 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

WHERE: Lifetime Sports Complex, TCC main campus, 444 Appleyard Drive, Tallahassee, FL 32304

DETAILS: Tallahassee Community College will host its first-ever New Student Convocation to officially welcome all new students to the campus and mark the beginning of their collegiate journey.

TCC President Jim Murdaugh will welcome students along with Sheri Rowland, vice president for student affairs.

Students will learn more about what to expect on the first day of class, the First Year Experience (FYE) at TCC and how to get involved and be successful in college.

Students can also meet the deans and faculty of the College, learn more about academic enrichment programs, and explore the campus.

"Convocation is a time to celebrate the excitement of our new students," said Michael Coleman, TCC dean of students. "We look forward to making this a true Eagle tradition."

All incoming freshmen and transfer students are encouraged to attend, and should RSVP at www.tcc.fl.edu/convocation.

Parents are not required to attend, but family members are invited to share this experience.

While there is no specific dress code for the event, students and guests are encouraged to wear blue and gold (TCC's colors), or any TCC shirt. These may be purchased in the TCC bookstore located in the Student Union.

Parking is free in any student lot. Additional information is available at www.tcc.fl.edu/convocation.

Robbery near Tallahassee Community College campus

AMY ROBINSON

WCTV

The Tallahassee Community College Police Department is investigating a robbery near the college's main campus on Appleyard Drive.

TCC sent out an alert just after 4 p.m. Thursday.

The alert describes the suspect as a black male, 15 to 19 years old, wearing a red shirt with #10 on it, and jeans.

Anyone seeing a person matching the suspect's description is asked to contact TCC Police at (850)-201-6100.

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TCC's Wakulla Environmental Institute
170 Preservation Way, Crawfordville, FL 32326

