

TALLAHASSEE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

In the News



October 15, 2009 - November 13, 2009



TALLAHASSEE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

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Green Living Expo will focus on sustainability

BY DAVE HODGES

BUSINESS MATTERS EDITOR

There are more than 50 exhibits of green building products, appliances and technologies, plus displays on green career possibilities planned for Saturday's Green Living Expo in Tallahassee.

The event takes place from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Costco Wholesale parking lot. The store is at 3550 Mahan Drive.

Mike Rogers, chair of the Tallahassee Builders Association's Green Building Council, said the common theme for the exhibits is products, services and programs that deal with some aspect of sustainable living, environmental education or green building practices.

"It's a great opportunity for public exposure," Rogers said.

Sponsored by the Capital Green Building Group, the event is focused on public education and awareness, Rogers noted. Residents will be able to talk to builders, manufacturers and suppliers of various green building products and technologies, and learn more about green-building certification.

A new feature in this year's expo is a focus on the emerging field of "green collar" jobs and career paths. The [Tallahassee Community College](#) Workforce Development Center and Workforce Plus will be on hand to discuss green collar job training opportunities.

"Green jobs are important to Florida's economic recovery, as they represent an opportunity to create or save jobs where few opportunities exist. The expo will offer a great opportunity to learn more about what a green job is," said Kimberly Moore, CEO of Workforce Plus.

Representatives from city of Tallahassee Energy Services will discuss various energy savings rebate programs available. In addition to exhibits, workshops will be held by vendors focusing on how to live and build green, plus ways to green up existing structures.

For more about the Green Living Expo and a list of exhibitors, visit the TBA's Green Building Council Web site at www.tallahasseebuilding.com or the association site at www.tallyba.com.



Residents check out the displays at the 2008 Green Living Expo. The event is back this Saturday and will feature an even larger array of exhibits, organizers say. (Special to the Democrat)

WORKFORCE plus Teams with Monster Government Solutions to Hold Job Seeker Workshop in Tallahassee

REPORTER: PRESS RELEASE

Tallahassee, Florida –

WORKFORCE plus today announced a collaboration with Monster Government Solutions to plan and produce MONSTER MANIA!, a free workshop to provide job seekers with the advice and resources they need to find a job and manage their career. Monster Government Solutions is a wholly owned subsidiary of Monster Worldwide, Inc. (NYSE: MWW), parent company of Monster.com, the leading global online career and recruitment resource.

The workshops will feature Monster.com career experts who will provide information and techniques job seekers need to truly stand out from the crowd in today's tough job market and conduct effective job searches. Monster experts will teach job seekers about resume tips and tricks, successful networking tools and techniques, new job hunting strategies, using career tools, and understanding what employers are looking for in this difficult market. Job seekers will also receive information on using the Florida career site, Employ Florida Marketplace, as well as guidance for accessing Monster's interactive career management tools. Great care has gone into making the workshop focused on the regional marketplace and workforce trends to provide job seekers with the highest quality relevant information. Materials presented during the workshop will be available to participants on a complimentary CD as well as the website, www.wfplus.org after the event.

"The current economic situation has brought with it many challenges for job seekers across the nation," said Kimberly Moore, Chief Executive Officer of WORKFORCE plus. "We jumped at the opportunity to partner with Monster to provide just-in-time assistance to our local community. This partnership is the first of its kind in Florida."

"Monster is committed to helping job seekers access the tools and information they need to find work," said Lee Ramsayer, Vice President of Sales for Monster Government Solutions. "These seeker workshops are designed to give job seekers the chance to meet face-to-face with our career experts to energize their job search and perfect the strategies they need to be successful. We are pleased to have been invited by WORKFORCE plus to collaborate on this project to help people in the Big Bend area."

The free Job Seeker Workshop will be held on Thursday, October 22, 2009 at the [Tallahassee Community College](#) Turner Auditorium, 444 Appleyard Drive, Tallahassee. Two tracks are available based upon the job seekers current education and/or skill level. Monster Mania Track 1 for college students and those with limited professional work experience will be held at 9:00 am. Monster Mania Track 2 for professional level job seekers and college graduates will begin at 1:00 pm.

Registration is required and space is limited. To register, visit www.wfplus.org and click on the Monster!

"The partnership between WORKFORCE plus and Monster Government Solutions has produced a tremendous opportunity for job seekers in the Big Bend area, and exemplifies the high bar for performance set by Florida's workforce system," said Workforce Florida President/CEO Chris Hart IV. "The No. 1 goal of Florida's workforce system is to get Floridians back to work and to help those that are employed to advance in their careers – Monster Mania speaks directly to that effort."

Monster Mania is presented by Monster Government Solutions, WORKFORCE plus and Workforce Florida Inc. Additional supporters include Tallahassee Community College and the Tallahassee/Leon Economic Development Council.

Tired of Your Old Cell Phone? Donate It!

REPORTER: PRESS RELEASE

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. (October 13, 2009) - [Tallahassee Community College](#) and Havana Elementary School are participating in Motorola's Race to Recycle™ program. The company will recycle donated cell phones, thereby protecting the environment by preventing lead, mercury and cadmium from leaking into local water supplies. The proceeds of the fundraiser will be split between the TCC STEM Center and Havana Elementary School. The schools may raise up to \$21,000.

"This is an opportunity to raise money for our students' educations, while teaching them a valuable lesson about environmental responsibility," said Wilbert Butler, TCC Associate Professor of Biology. "We invite the local community to help by pulling old cell phones from drawers and closets and donating them to this cause."

Phones and accessories will be collected through May 2010 and may be dropped off at Havana Elementary School or TCC Academic Computing Center, room 133. For more information, please contact Larissa Riggins at (850) 539-2009 or Wilbert Butler at (850) 251-0436.

International students flock to Tallahassee Community College

By Angeline J. Taylor
DEMOCRAT STAFF WRITER

They've come from Russia, Venezuela and South Korea to enhance their lives and their careers.

The fact that they have degrees and are established professionals in their native homelands may mean little here in the United States.

That's why nearly 500 international students have come to Tallahassee Community College – to establish an educational foundation that will help them transfer easily to a four-year college or university.

"There are wide arrays of different types of visas," Betty Jensen, TCC's international student advisor/counselor said. "Many of my foreign students come with – if not a degree – some college."

Return to Tallahassee.com for more details.

Florida's Great Northwest announces new board of directors

NEWS HERALD STAFF REPORT

DESTIN — Florida's Great Northwest, a 16-county, regional economic development organization, hosted its eighth annual Focus Northwest Florida event last week at Sandestin Golf and Beach Resort. The event promoted the Northwest Florida region to national site selection consultants and included Florida's Great Northwest's annual organizational meeting.

Board members for 2009-2010 are: Cindy Anderson, TEAM Santa Rosa; Bill Arnett, Walton County Economic Development Alliance; Jack Azzaretto, University of West Florida; Rick Bitner, Farm Credit of Northwest Florida; Bob Blackerby, Magnum Capital, treasurer; Kim Bodine, Gulf Coast Workforce Board, secretary; Marti Coley, Chipola College; Chuck Faulkner, Goodwyn, Mills & Cawood; David Goetsch, Northwest Florida State College; Peter Heckathorn, Sacred Heart Health System; Jeff Helms, PBS&J, chairman; Marc Hoenstine, Progress Energy, corporate member representative to the executive committee; John Hutchinson, Gulf Power; Ted Kirchharr, Landrum Professional; Beth Kirkland, Economic Development Council of Tallahassee-Leon County; [Bill Law, Tallahassee Community College](#), chairman-elect; James Lee III, Buffalo Rock Company; Fred Leopold, Community Bank, Destin, past chairman; Rick Marcum, Opportunity Florida; Juliet Milam, PowerSouth; Kim Moore, Workforce Plus; Mary Moulton, Moulton Properties; Susan Nelms, Workforce Escarosa Inc.; Steve Peranich, Roy Anderson Corp.; Jerry Ray, The St. Joe Co.; Mary Lou Reed, Workforce Board of Okaloosa-Walton Counties; Larry Sassano, Economic Development Council of Okaloosa County; Bill Stanton, Jackson County Development Council, Economic Development member representative to the Executive Committee; Jeff Stevenson, Gulf Coast Community College; Bentina Terry, Gulf Power; Janet Watermeier, Bay County Economic Development Alliance; Richard Williams, Chipola Regional Workforce Development Board; Charles Wood, Pensacola Bay Area Chamber of Commerce.

Meet writers, solve a mystery

By Kathleen Laufenberg
DEMOCRAT STAFF WRITER

If you love mysteries and you'd like to get to know some of Tallahassee's writers, head down to the American Legion Hall tonight.

In the spirit of Halloween, the Tallahassee Writers Association is hosting a interactive play whose main actor is Dan Damerville, an English teacher at [Tallahassee Community College](#).

"It's a way people can come meet us and find out what we're about — and have a lot fun," said Donna Meredith, the association's president.

Although Meredith and others scripted the mystery — which revolves around the murder of a writer, of course — the story line calls for a lot of improvisation, she said.

Everyone at the party will act as a witness, and as a detective, to the crime. The first person to solve the mystery will win a copy of Stephen King's latest novel, "Under the Dome."

There will be a cash bar and hors d'oeuvres, and you're invited to come in costume.

Additional Facts

If you go:

- What: A murder mystery party
- Who: Tallahassee Writers Association
- When: 6:30 p.m. today
- Where: American Legion Hall, Lake Ella
- Cost: \$5 for nonmembers, TWA members free

Campus Notes

By Doug Blackburn

FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY

Biomedical professor praised for leading lab

A Florida State University College of Medicine biomedical-sciences professor has been recognized as having one of the most influential structural-biology labs in the world. Michael Blaber was named No. 36 in a ranking of top scientists in the field by the Ion Channel Media Group.

NIH grants \$2.4 million for autism research: Amy Wetherby, an FSU researcher, has been awarded two grants from the National Institutes of Health totaling \$2.4 million to continue her work in detecting autism in children as young as 18 months. Wetherby is director of the Autism Institute in the College of Medicine.

Applied Superconductivity Center receives \$1.2 million grant: The Applied Superconductivity Center at FSU's National High Magnetic Field Laboratory has received \$1.2 million from the U.S. Department of Energy to understand and enhance a new form of super-conducting material that could be used to build more-powerful magnets used in a wide range of scientific research. The grant is part of a larger \$4 million award over two years to a collaboration — the Very High Field Superconducting Magnet Collaboration — for which David C. Larbalestier, the magnet lab's chief materials scientist and director of the Applied Superconductivity Center, and Alvin Tollestrup of Fermilab are the project leaders.

TALLAHASSEE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

U.S. Department of Justice recognizes safety institute: TCC's Florida Public Safety Institute has received awards from the U.S. Department of Justice totaling \$300,000 to continue support for criminal-intelligence training offered by the FPSI's Pat Thomas Law Enforcement Academy. With the aid of the grants, the FPSI will enhance existing infrastructure and programs in intelligence training.

THOMAS UNIVERSITY

Thomas breaks ground for renovation: Thomas University recently broke ground on one of the most ambitious renovation projects in school history. The project, which will cost between \$4 million and \$5 million, will re-configure the university's roads and parking lots, renovate and group buildings into traditional campus quads and set the stage for a new 16,000-square-foot academic building.

Compiled by Doug Blackburn. Contact Doug at dblackburn@tallahassee.com with higher education news.

TCC officials address red flags raised in audit

By Angeline J. Taylor

DEMOCRAT STAFF WRITER

Tallahassee Community College officials have three areas to address, according to the Florida Auditor General's operational audit of the college.

The recently released audit had three red flags or findings for the college. TCC officials need to work on: properly recording students' residency status, offering competitive bids for goods and services and improving procedures for renting college facilities.

TCC President Bill Law said the issues have already been addressed.

"We always hope that (an audit) would be perfectly clean," Law said. "The three findings seem to be modest."

The state auditor general said the purpose of the audit was to make sure the college's internal controls were in compliance with state laws and to evaluate TCC officials performance.

To properly record student residency, the auditor general's office recommended TCC officials should ensure and obtain "required documentation to evidence Florida residency for purposes of assessing and collecting student tuition."

The agency recommended goods and services be secured through a competitive-bid process. TCC officials should update policies surrounding lease agreements to ensure timely rent payments, according to the audit.

Law and his administrators replied to each finding. In regard to student residency, Law said the college has a system to weekly monitor students' classification status. To ensure competitive bids, "a weekly report has been designed and is provided to the vice president and assistant vice president for administrative services."

And to ensure leases are paid in a timely manner, TCC has simplified the procedures, Law said.

Boys & Girls Clubs of the Big Bend to host fundraiser, awards ceremony

DEMOCRAT STAFF REPORT

The Kids Soiree, the Boys & Girls Clubs of the Big Bend's largest annual fundraiser, is held every fall and attended by more than 400 business leaders, community members and valuable partners.

The event will be tonight beginning at 5:30 p.m. at [Tallahassee Community College's](#) Turner Auditorium.

It will feature light refreshments, an extensive silent auction and performances by talented Boys & Girls Club members.

The Employee of the Year, Volunteer of the Year, Youth of the Year Starfish Award will be presented.

Return to [Tallahassee.com](#) tonight for a photo gallery from the event.

Free tutoring program a hit at Florida State University

By Doug Blackburn

DEMOCRAT SENIOR WRITER

Nick Ezell wasn't feeling too confident about an upcoming biology exam.

A sophomore at Florida State University, Ezell also thought he could use some general help with his study habits as he prepared for the test.

Thanks to a new program at FSU, free tutoring was available at Strozier Library. It was exactly what Ezell needed, as he scored a 22 out of 25 on the biology exam.

"It's a good thing to have," the Pensacola native said. "It's something I'll definitely use again."

The new program, unveiled earlier this month, is called the Learning District. It is jointly funded by the university and the Student Government Association and is based primarily at Strozier, with some tutoring sessions being offered at Dirac Library. Tutors are scheduled when students are most likely to be studying, from 8 p.m. to as late as 1 a.m.

Library-based tutoring centers are becoming more common at universities. [Tallahassee Community College](#) also offers free tutoring at its Learning Commons, which adjoins the library at TCC, while the University of South Florida provides extensive free tutoring services at its Tampa library.

"We see this as an expansion of our mission in terms of supporting students' success," said FSU's Rebecca Bichel, associate director for public services at Strozier. "We're taking advantage of a space students are coming to."

FSU's English and statistics departments have long made tutors available at the library, but the Learning District has broadened the academic spectrum to include tutors in accounting, biology, chemistry, economics, math and physics, which have a long history of tutoring at their own departments. The goal is to match tutors with "high-failure rate" courses, explained Kirsten Kinsley, an undergraduate assessment librarian managing tutoring at Strozier.

It appears the Learning District's challenge will be keeping up with demand. More chemistry students attended the first free tutoring session than there were spaces available. Seventeen tutors have been hired to date, with plans to expand before final exams get under way.

Richard Benson, the deputy student body treasurer, was among the core group who developed the Learning District.

"It's been wildly more successful than we anticipated," he said. "We're overusing some of the tutors right now."

Benson takes pride in student government's role in establishing the tutoring service.

"I wish it was something we had done years ago. The money had been there for a long time," he said. "We had just never taken a microscope to our budget, which the budget crisis taught us (to do)."

"I think we came out with a package that's going to advance our academic cause."

Contact Doug Blackburn at (850) 599-2323 or dblackburn@tallahassee.com

Crist reappoints BCF prof to trustee board

On September 15, Florida Gov. Charlie Crist reappointed The Baptist College of Florida voice professor Kimberle Moon to serve on the District Board of Trustees at [Tallahassee Community College](#). Moon will be representing Gadsden County.

"I commend Governor Crist for appointing capable community leaders who can contribute to the continued excellence of the college," said [TCC President Bill Law](#). "The Governor has again chosen talented and experienced people for the TCC Board who will serve the college and the community very well."

Recognized for her time and commitment while serving on the board, Moon was reappointed for another term beginning September 15, 2009, and ending May 31, 2013. Moon was first appointed in 2005 by then-Governor Jeb Bush.

Tallahassee Democrat - October 23, 2009

Disability Mentoring Day shows path to employment

By Dave Hodges

DEMOCRAT BUSINESS EDITOR

For a sports fan, there may be no better place than the athletic director's office. At least that was the thinking of Jonathan Farris, a junior from Lincoln High School.

Farris spent Disability Mentoring Day shadowing mentor Rob Chaney, the AD at [Tallahassee Community College](#).

"I put together a story on men's basketball, and I have really had a great time," Farris said at the midday luncheon commemorating the ninth annual event.

He planned to spend the afternoon on a sports video and attend the TCC baseball team's practice.

"I put him to work the first thing this morning," Chaney said. "He's been writing some stories previewing the upcoming basketball season and working on scripts that he will put to video this afternoon."

Employers throughout Tallahassee were matched Wednesday with more than 100 students and job seekers with disabilities. The event is held in October, Disability Employment Awareness Month, and is growing in popularity, with the number of mentees participating up 67 percent from a year ago, according to Ability 1st, the community agency that assists individuals who have disabilities. Statewide, more than 4,000 people participated this year.

"I think this works well because, for Jonathan, it's an opportunity for him to really get his feet wet and see if this is



Rob Chaney, athletic director at [Tallahassee Community College](#), left, talks sports Wednesday with student Jonathan Farris from Lincoln High School. The two participated in the ninth annual Disability Mentoring Day

Disability Mentoring....

continued

something he would like to pursue long term," Chaney said. "For TCC, it's a great opportunity for us to connect with somebody else in the community who has an interest in athletics."

More than 2 million people with disabilities live in Florida, but only 58 percent are employed. The Able Trust, which is the Governor's Alliance for the Employment of Citizens with Disabilities, sees that as a great untapped resource for businesses and other employers.

In a 2007 study, 38 percent of Florida businesses surveyed reported hiring at least one person with a disability over the preceding three years; 72 percent of them said the employment of people with disabilities had a favorable effect on their business.

Brooks Haisten would agree. He has two special-needs employees at the Zaxby's restaurant on Capital Circle Northeast, and he served as a mentor to two others on Wednesday.

"It has been a wonderful experience," said Haisten, the restaurant owner and operator. "There are just a lot of benefits from someone with special needs because in the past maybe no one has ever believed in them or given them an opportunity, so it's really neat building loyalty, a bond and a relationship."

For employers who might be considering the hiring of a worker with a disability, Haisten had some advice. "I would recommend, No. 1, just being very open minded to the situation and realizing that there's somebody special out there with special needs that may very well fit your organization."

The Florida Department of Education's Division of Vocational Rehabilitation offers a Web site where employers and prospective job candidates can exchange information. FLJobConnections.com allows businesses to search at no charge for employees who are ready to go to work, as well as post available jobs.

The Division of Vocational Rehabilitation has 111 offices across Florida and last year helped more than 8,000 Floridians find or keep jobs.

The Agency for Persons with Disabilities supports people

with developmental disabilities and annually serves about 35,000 Floridians through its programs.

Employment is the link needed for many individuals with disabilities to gain personal and financial independence. J.R. Harding, external affairs manager for the APD and a disability consultant, said that while technology has opened doors and legislative action, such as the Americans with Disabilities Act, has made facilities more accessible, employment still lags.

"The one benchmark which hasn't changed is employment. It's still stuck in the mud," he added.

For the students and job seekers participating in the mentoring event, they can see where they fit in the workplace. "I think programs like this allow folks to explore the universe of possibilities on a guided pathway, where if they trip and fall, someone might pick them up," Harding said.

Next year, Disability Mentoring Day will observe its 10th anniversary, and the landmark ADA will be 20 years old. Harding said he would like to see the mentoring program in every county in Florida by then.

FSU president search under way

No applications in for position; firm says efforts 'fully launched'

By Doug Blackburn
DEMOCRAT SENIOR WRITER

It may take a while to find a new leader for Florida State University.

It's been more than four months since FSU President T.K. Wetherell announced his resignation, and three months since the Board of Trustees hired a consultant to take the lead role in the process, yet no one has applied for the position.

John Hicks, the senior consultant with Academic Search, Inc., the firm FSU is using, last week provided an update that described the search as "fully launched."

"Our efforts to identify potential strong candidates are under way," Hicks said.

While Wetherell, 63, has agreed to stay on until a new president is named, he wants his successor to be identified by the end of the year.

That appears unlikely.

Hicks hopes to have an initial candidate pool for the search committee to review Nov. 20, when the trustees have their next meeting.

It's possible a series of initial interviews could be scheduled for some time in December, as the process unfolds.

That doesn't mean the university community isn't talking about who may be FSU's 14th president.

"Nobody on campus knows any of the names that have been advanced to John, and he's not talking about them," said Lee Hinkle, FSU's vice president for university relations.

[TCC President Bill Law](#) has been mentioned as a possible successor to Wetherell, perhaps in part because Wetherell had been TCC's president prior to taking the top job at FSU.

Law admitted he's flattered to have his name come up, but he hasn't begun to explore the possibility of applying for the position.

"I'm always interested to see what new opportunities there are career-wise," Law said. "I'm watching carefully, but I haven't had the big conversation with my wife yet.

"I'm kind of a one-trick pony," Law added. "Community college stuff is really my best game."

Joseph Travis, dean of FSU's College of Arts & Sciences and a member of the Presidential Search Committee, on Monday gave an update on the search to a meeting of deans, department chairs and administrators. He described Hicks' efforts as an "aggressive process."

Law enforcement is the rule at local academy

By Jon McCloud

DEMOCRAT WRITER

HAVANA — When Jim Murdaugh became the director of the Pat Thomas Law Enforcement Academy 10 years ago, the academy was housed in one building. It has since been transformed into a seven-building, 1,500-acre dispenser of law enforcement training.

The academy is now operated under Tallahassee Community College's Florida Public Safety Institute, located 14 miles west of Tallahassee on U.S. Highway 90.

"I've trained all over the state, and without a doubt it is the premier training facility in the state of Florida," said Officer David McCranie, spokesman for the Tallahassee Police Department.

The academy opened its new conference center two weeks ago.

"The need that led us to this new building was that we did not have enough classrooms," Murdaugh said. "We also have a lot of graduation ceremonies. We hold about 25 to 30 graduations a year."

Murdaugh noted that the institute will allow the Gadsden County agencies access to the conference center for certain events, if it is available.

"We've already done a number of things with (Gadsden County) civic groups," Murdaugh said. "Of course we would not allow things like weddings and such, but we do support civic and community activities."

The traffic through Gadsden County by those attending the institute, those attending a conference or those attending graduation all help the economy of Gadsden County.

Gadsden County Commission Chairman Eugene Lamb said the institute has helped the economic development of the county noticeably and that it works very well with the county.

"It's a blessing to have this academy in Gadsden," Lamb said. "People from all over the country, and especially the South, come to this academy."

The Institute hosted its first conference in its new conference center last week.

"I think we brought in around \$50,000 (last) week to the Gadsden County area," Murdaugh said.

The institute also runs a dual enrollment program with East Gadsden High School that allows seniors to take their high-school courses in the morning and complete training exercises in the afternoon. This gives the students the chance to be certified to go into law enforcement after graduation.

"This has been a huge success so far," Murdaugh said. "(Gadsden County Schools) Superintendent James said that we are moving these kids into middle class overnight."

Upon completing their training at the institute, the graduates could start out making a little over \$30,000 a year.

"That is more than some of their teachers," Murdaugh said.

"I thank God we have something of this magnitude here that the kids of Gadsden County can take advantage of," Lamb said.

Completion of training at the institute does not guarantee everyone a job, but it does give graduates an edge over the competition.

"They definitely give you everything you need to be a great law enforcement officer," said Joe Eldridge, a recent graduate from Rose Hill, Va. "They teach you to be a notch above the rest."

The institute has 50 full-time employees and over 500 adjunct instructors who are brought in to teach certain subjects.

"A lot of these instructors come from either the Quincy Police Department or the Gadsden County Sheriff's Office," Murdaugh said. "We like to use local talent, but we hire from all over as well."

The institute has training for every division of law enforcement from local policing and Highway Patrol training, to juvenile justice and S.W.A.T. training.

"Our mission is to train people to go to work," Murdaugh said. "If you are going to do it on the job, you will do it here first. We don't want our officers' first experience with any situation to occur at your home."

Army awards grant to TCC for Advanced Manufacturing Training Center

SPECIAL TO BUSINESS MATTERS

Tallahassee Community College has received \$1.7 million from the U.S. Army Research Office to support the new Advanced Manufacturing Training Center.

When completed, the center will provide job training and foster job creation in manufacturing and related cutting-edge technologies.

The center will be established in collaboration with area manufacturers, the Economic Development Council of Tallahassee/Leon County, Workforce Plus, and the Center for Excellence in Advanced Materials at Florida State University, in addition to other community partners.

"This investment will have a strong, positive impact on the education and training of students, incumbent workers, and the economic development of our community," said TCC President Bill Law.

Law added that the college is very appreciative of U.S. Rep. Allen Boyd's leadership in making the award possible, as well as key support from U.S. Rep. Ander Crenshaw, U.S. Sen. Bill Nelson and former U.S. Sen. Mel Martinez.

WCTV - October 26, 2009

U.S. Army Research Office Awards \$1.7 Million to TCC for Manufacturing Training Center

TCC PRESS RELEASE:

TALLAHASSEE, Fla.-

Tallahassee Community College has received \$1.7 million from the U.S. Army Research Office (ARO) to support a new Advanced Manufacturing Training Center, which, when completed, will provide job training and foster job creation in manufacturing and related cutting-edge technologies.

The new center will be established in collaboration with area manufacturers, the Economic Development Council of Tallahassee and Leon County (EDC), WORKFORCE plus, Inc. and the Center for Excellence in Advanced Materials (CEAM) at the Florida State University, in addition to other community partners.

"This investment will have a strong, positive impact on the education and training of students, incumbent workers, and the economic development of our community," said TCC President Bill Law.

Law added that the College is very appreciative of U.S. Rep. Allen Boyd's leadership in making the award possible, as well as key support from U.S. Rep. Ander Crenshaw, U.S. Sen. Bill Nelson and former U.S. Sen. Mel Martinez.

The new center will be managed by Dr. John Chapin, TCC Vice President for Workforce Development.

"We envision that the center will train TCC students and existing workers for good jobs at current manufacturers as well as new businesses that join our community as a result of recognizing that a highly trained workforce is being developed to meet employers' needs," Chapin said.

The Advanced Manufacturing Training Center will be located on the southwest corner of TCC's main campus. Plans call for an existing building to undergo renovations in order to provide modern classrooms and instructional laboratories that will prepare individuals to succeed in high-skill, technologically advanced professions. The building will also provide incubator space to nurture businesses that have the potential to create jobs.

Grant will establish learning center at Shanks Middle School in Quincy

DEMOCRAT STAFF REPORT

The Florida Department of Education has awarded \$1.28 million to Tallahassee Community College to establish a 21st Century Community Learning Center at James A. Shanks Middle School in Quincy to improve student success, the DOE said this morning.

The five-year project seeks to raise achievement levels of low-income students through research-based enrichment programs operated outside of the school day.

Officials said the initiative will be implemented through a partnership with Gadsden County Schools, Communities In Schools, the Gadsden Arts Center, AmeriCorps, TCC and other community partners.

"This award is great news for students and demonstrates TCC's strong commitment to help prepare secondary students to succeed in college and the work force," said TCC President Bill Law.

Vice President for Student Affairs Sharon Jefferson, whose division will manage the program, said the funding "will provide vital support for students who need it the most and can be used for academic enrichment services such as tutoring in core subjects like reading and math."

The federally funded program supports centers that provide services during nonschool hours for students, particularly those who attend high-poverty and low-performing schools, as well as their families.

By providing tutoring and other academic enrichment activities along with youth development opportunities that complement their regular academic programs, the centers help students meet state and local student standards in core academic subjects, such as English language arts and math.

In addition, literacy and other educational services are offered to families of students participating in the program.

Roger Milton, TCC Quincy House Manager, will serve as project director. He will be assisted by Dorothy Thomas, site coordinator, and Juanita Ellis, principal at Shanks Middle School.

"These programs are invaluable," Milton said. "Partnerships like these sometimes mean the difference for our students meeting their academic goals and going on to college."

TCC Receives \$1.2 Million Award for 21st Century Community Learning Center at Shanks Middle School in Quincy

Tallahassee Community College Press Release:

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. -

The Florida Department of Education has awarded \$1,275,600 to Tallahassee Community College in order to establish a 21st Century Community Learning Center (CCLC) at James A. Shanks Middle School in Quincy to improve student success.

The five-year project seeks to raise achievement levels of low-income students through research-based enrichment programs operated outside of the school day. The initiative will be implemented through a partnership with Gadsden County Schools, Communities In Schools (CIS), the Gadsden Arts Center, AmeriCorps, TCC and other community partners.

"This award is great news for students and demonstrates TCC's strong commitment to help prepare secondary students to succeed in college and the workforce," said TCC President Bill Law.

Sharon Jefferson, Vice President for Student Affairs, whose division will manage the program, said the funding "will provide vital support for students who need it the most and can be used for academic enrichment services such as tutoring in core subjects like reading and math."

The federally funded program supports centers that provide services during non-school hours for students, particularly those who attend high-poverty and low-performing schools, as well as their families. By providing tutoring and other academic enrichment activities along with a broad array of youth development opportunities that complement their regular academic programs, these centers help students meet state and local student standards in core academic subjects, such as English language arts and math. In addition, literacy and other educational services are offered to families of students participating in the program.

Roger Milton, TCC Quincy House Manager, will serve as project director. He will be assisted by Dorothy Thomas, site coordinator and Juanita Ellis, principal at Shanks Middle School.

"These programs are invaluable," Milton said. "Partnerships like these sometimes mean the difference for our students meeting their academic goals and going on to college."

The award for Shanks will build on the outstanding success the partnership achieved last year at Quincy's Stewart Street Elementary School. A 2009 external evaluation of the project's first-year performance found that the Stewart Street program is one of the most successful 21st CCLCs in Florida.

TCC accepting applications for scholarships in IT training

SPECIAL TO BUSINESS MATTERS

Tallahassee Community College's Technology and Professional Programs division is accepting scholarship applications for candidates in Information Technology fields. Scholarship funds will be available beginning with the spring 2010 semester.

Funded by a partnership between TCC and economic development organization Florida's Great Northwest, the Northwest Florida Computing and Engineering Training Scholarship Program is designed to increase Florida's information technology work force by helping academically talented students earn their college degree in an associated field.

Financial assistance is available to those seeking training in the areas of computer programming and analysis, computer programming specialist, help desk/technical support, networking services technology, information technology management and information technology technician, along with many other areas.

Scholarship funds will be used to pay for 50 percent of tuition, fees, cost of textbooks, software and any costs for associated professional certification exams. Candidates must submit an application and essay indicating the program they intend to pursue and their interest in the field.

Funds will be given to scholarship recipients for subsequent semesters (through fall 2010) of the student's degree program, provided they remain within the designated degree program and maintain an overall 2.0 grade point average.

"The Northwest Florida Computing and Engineering Training Scholarship Program is a win-win for the Tallahassee community," said Kate Stewart, dean of TCC's TPP Division. "Our work force is in great need of skilled people who can help move our economy into a strong and solid position. The opportunity is here for high school and college graduates, as well as displaced or underutilized workers to move into a reliable career."

Students interested in the Northwest Florida Computing and Engineering Training Scholarship Program can apply online at www.tcc.fl.edu/scholarships. For information, contact TCC's Technology and Professional Programs division at 201-8352, or e-mail tpp@tcc.fl.edu.



After getting my bachelor's degree at a university, I changed my career path to graphic design. My life is full as a wife and a mother, and taking classes at TCC is less daunting and a far more personable experience. The education I am receiving clearly parallels the university.

Alycia Malicz
A.A.S., Graphic Design, Class of '10



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TCC has the best Fire Academy in the state of Florida. I will graduate after six months of training and then continue at TCC to get my EMT certification. TCC has everything I need to fulfill my dream of being a firefighter!

Shannon Daniels,
Fire Academy Recruit, Class 5

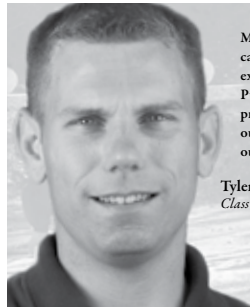


TCC's Fire Academy Class 4 earned a
100% Pass Rate
 on State Exams!

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My goal is to have a challenging career in law enforcement. The excellence of TCC's Florida Public Safety Institute has prepared me to protect our citizens and serve our community.

Tyler Epstein,
Class President of Basic Recruit Class 350



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Train Protect Serve

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I've been working in the electronic engineering field for the last 17 years. Taking classes at TCC to refresh my skills has opened the door to new opportunities!

Pretcena Gibson,
A.A.S., Electronics Engineering Technology, Class of '09

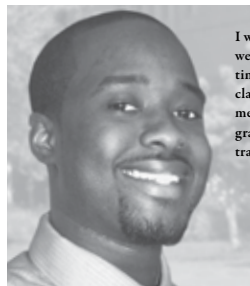


Update your skills
 and stay in the game!

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I was able to work 30 - 35 hours a week while attending TCC as a full time student. TCC's flexible class schedule allowed me to stay on track to graduate on time and transfer to FSU.

Jude "JP" Paul
TCC Class of 2008



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Help&Hope low on participants

United Way program aims to foster economic independence

By Elizabeth M. Mack

DEMOCRAT STAFF WRITER

The United Way of the Big Bend launched its new Help&Hope program in early September, but it's still looking for people who can use its services.

"We're surprised at the level of registration," said Ken Armstrong, United Way president. "There's no deadline on registration, but we would like to get the ball rolling on this."

So far, the program has received 14 applications from people seeking assistance. Half of them are qualified for the program.

The Help&Hope program offers an unconventional type of assistance. Its mission is to "connect those experiencing crisis due to the economic recession with existing and new resources needed to hasten their return to economic independence."

Alma Hubbard, Help&Hope service coordinator, said 30 volunteers are lined up, ready to help.

"Some of our community partners have already stepped forward," she said. "We have \$5,000 worth of time from [Tallahassee Community College](#) providing job training."

Aside from that, there are lawyers who can help with such legal needs as foreclosure and credit-card collections, Armstrong said.

Hubbard shared a story of a woman she recently assisted who was on the verge of losing her home and had not made any headway with her mortgage holder. Hubbard connected her with a lawyer who talked to the bank. The woman got more time to pay her mortgage.

Armstrong said the real requirement for Help&Hope applicants is to have "fallen in distress since September 2008 and have long-term financial issues."

There is no requirement for volunteers.

"We're looking for individuals, fraternities, sororities, Sunday school groups, someone who wants to do more for someone in need," Armstrong said.

For more information or to register, call Alma Hubbard at 414-0859 or visit, www.helpandhope.info.

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Leon County High School Nights December 1 and 17 •
Basketball doubleheader in the Eagledome • 5:30 and 7:30 p.m.
High School students admitted free with school ID

Dual Enrollment Application Deadline for Spring 2010: **Dec. 1**

www.GoToTCC.com | (850) 201-8555 | admissions@tcc.fl.edu



Tallahassee Magazine - November, 2009

The Greatest Wealth is Health — Invest in Tallahassee's Well-Being This Season

Florida and our nation are heading toward a major health care crisis — a chronic shortage of health care professionals that will be needed over the coming decades as our population ages.

A 2007 study by the Florida Center for Nursing revealed that 40 percent of Florida nurses are 51 or older and many of them are expected to retire in the next 10 years. Currently it is estimated our state has a shortage of about 11,000 nurses needed to properly staff our health facilities. By 2020, that shortage is predicted to be more than 52,000.

There isn't a study to reflect shortages in all the other health care professions, but one can assume the situation is similar. And rest assured, if not addressed soon, this will have an adverse impact on our local hospitals and the residents of our capital region.

In an effort to fill the need, [Tallahassee Community College](#) offers professional educational programs in diagnostic medical sonography, emergency medical services, nursing, radiological technology and respiratory care — and nearly all graduates of these health-related programs find jobs in our community.

Several years ago, Tallahassee Memorial Hospital donated land and the philanthropic Ghazvini family provided \$2 million in startup money to help TCC relocate its health care training programs into one facility strategically located in Tallahassee's "medical corridor," close to area hospitals.

Through the hard work of [TCC President Bill Law](#), senior staff and the college's Board of Trustees, the Florida Legislature agreed to spend nearly \$26 million for construction of the Ghazvini Center for Health Care Education.

The Greatest Wealth....

continued

This private donation and public contribution will result in a three-story, 85,000-square-foot building where classroom education can happen, instructors can lecture and students can be within walking distance or just a short drive from places like TMH, Capital Regional Medical Center, HealthSouth Rehabilitation Hospital, Select Specialty Hospital and numerous nursing homes where they will receive real-time training.

Most importantly, this new center will enable TCC to nearly double the students they train and give them daily exposure to the best medical training that Tallahassee can offer.

And this is just the first foundation piling of a planned health-care training and treatment "campus" that will allow area residents to secure specialized treatments that currently require travel to Tampa, Gainesville, Atlanta and beyond.

But TCC faces another challenge. Funding is still needed to provide the training equipment and furnishings needed to fill the Ghazvini Center, which is slated for completion in Spring 2011.

This is where you come into the picture.

The TCC Foundation has embarked on a community fundraising campaign to find the resources to equip the facility. The most obvious resource is a personal cash contribution. But Tallahassee is home to many with connections to major corporations that could be asked to provide donations of furnishings or training equipment. (The equipment doesn't have to be new.)

Every dollar, every contact will help.

Please consider sending a check. Or contact TCC Foundation Director Robin Johnston to create an earmarked contribution, regardless of the amount

because every dollar will help, to the TMH Foundation or the Community Foundation of North Florida. Reach out to a corporate friend who will take your request to his or her board of directors for a donation of money or equipment. Ask your club or organization to support the effort. The Sunrise Rotary Club has already made a \$5,000 donation to the effort.

What is the return on this investment for you and Tallahassee? It will come in many ways. Among them:

Our area hospitals will have a larger and better-trained pool of health care providers who could one day impact your life or the life of a loved one.

You can be part of countless health care solutions that will have an immediate local impact.

You can leave a personal or family legacy through one of the many naming opportunities that come with gifting.

So, at the end of one of the most challenging economic years in our lifetime, which has been felt globally and individually, I ask you to find the strength and resolve during this holiday season of giving to provide a gift that will enhance the fabric of health care and life in Tallahassee.

And may I extend greetings of the season to you and your family from our family of 35 staff members of Rowland Publishing.

Colleges Nationwide Banning Tobacco On-Campus

Reporter: John Rogers

EMAIL ADDRESS: JOHN.ROGERS@WCTV.TV

Across the country, many college smokers' hopes of puffing a cigarette on campus will go up in smoke. Schools are considering campus-wide bans on tobacco.

Some think a simple puff can blow their cares away.

"After class, that cigarette's really nice, haha," says one TCC student.

At Florida State, they can only settle down and light up in certain parts of campus.

Throughout FSU's campus, green ash trays designate where smokers can light up. Black ash trays are placed throughout the school to prevent littering. But FSU is phasing in a plan to gradually make the campus more smoke free

FSU Health Educator Kevin Frentz says, "We've decided to take a phased-in approach to it, so it's a phased transition and knowing there's a chance we'll never get to a tobacco-free campus, but then, that's the goal."

Gradually more smoke free zones will be added to the campus.

FSU Student Will Bunnell says, "It's not a big deal. Everybody doesn't want to get the second-hand smoke but it would be really difficult out in open ventilated areas like Florida State campus."

At [Tallahassee Community College](#), they're not cloudy over their policies. There are certain areas where smokers cannot puff, but there are currently no plans to totally curb tobacco-use.

FAMU did not return our call.

FSU officials said if they create more smoke-free areas, there will really be no way to punish smokers who break the rules, they will be kindly told to move to another area.

These national efforts to stop tobacco use on campuses is part of Healthy Campus 2020, a nationwide effort to make college students healthier.

TCC's Educational Talent Search Program Refunded For 2009-10

Reporter: Press Release

EMAIL ADDRESS: NEWS@WCTV.TV

Tallahassee Community College's Educational Talent Search (ETS) TRiO Program has been funded for the fourth straight year, according to a grant notification from the U.S. Department of Education.

The \$226,600 grant will be used to help 600 youth with academic potential in Gadsden County complete high school and enroll in post-secondary education programs.

The initiative is led by Lori Livingston, TCC ETS Coordinator, under the direction of Dr. Jim Murdaugh, TCC Assistant Vice President and Director of the Florida Public Safety Institute. The project is conducted in collaboration with Gadsden County Schools and other partners.

TCC's Talent Search Program began in September 2006, and provides academic, career and financial counseling to participants, encouraging them to graduate from high school and continue on to the post-secondary school of their choice.

Initiatives funded under ETS include: 1) Academic, financial, career, or personal counseling including advice on entry or re-entry to secondary or post-secondary programs; 2) Career exploration and aptitude assessment; 3) Tutorial services; 4) Information on post-secondary education; 5) Exposure to college campuses; 6) Information on student financial assistance; 7) Assistance in completing college admissions and financial aid applications; 8) Assistance in preparing for college entrance exams; 9) Mentoring programs; and 10) Workshops for the families of participants.

Federal TRiO Programs are educational opportunity outreach programs designed to motivate and support students from diverse backgrounds. TRiO includes six outreach and support programs targeted to serve and assist low-income, first-generation college students and students with disabilities to progress through the academic pipeline from middle school to post-baccalaureate programs.

For more information about the TCC ETS Program, please contact Lori Livingston (850) 558-3642.

FIGHTING THROUGH THE FLAMES

MILITARY TAUGHT TALLAHASSEE COMMUNITY COLLEGE'S BERNARD JAMES HOW TO BE A MAN. NOW BASKETBALL HAS HIM POISED FOR BIGGER THINGS. *By Doug Blackburn, Tallahassee Democrat Senior Writer (Reprinted with permission)*



Photo courtesy of Tallahassee Community College

James earned Freshman of the Year honors in Region 8's Panhandle Conference last season and finished his first year averaging 12.7 points and 8.8 rebounds per game.

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. — Protecting the paint is mere child's play for Tallahassee Community College, Fla. sophomore center Bernard James. Particularly compared to the kind of guard duty he was pulling 26 months ago.

In August 2007, James was stationed at Camp Bucca in southern Iraq, a member of the Air Force Military Police assigned to help the Army keep watch on 22,000 prisoners — detainees, in military parlance.

James was equipped with an M-4 assault rifle, a 12-gauge Mossberg pump-action shotgun and an M-9 Beretta pistol, but they were of little use when a mortar shell fired from a half-mile away blasted into the prison — er, detention facility.

James was knocked to the ground and suffered temporary hearing loss, but other than that he wasn't hurt. While no American or Allied forces sustained life-threatening injuries from the mortar attack, six detainees were killed and at least five dozen more were injured.

"It was kind of crazy, but we had good leadership," said TCC's elder statesman, who turns 25 in February. "Everybody pulled together and got things done. We all made it through alive."

James' incredible journey — from a 16-year old high-school dropout, hanging out at malls in his Savannah, Ga., hometown, to a six-year stint in the military to today, a student-athlete at TCC poised to join Florida State's basketball team next season — is almost the stuff of fiction.

Equally amazing, he didn't even play organized basketball as a kid. He only started playing ball regularly after enlisting in the Air Force.

His commander Eric Dumas, a basketball enthusiast, saw a sculpted 6-foot-4, 17-year old and demanded he give basketball a try.

It was a good fit from the start. It got even better as he shot up five inches over the next two years, making it easy for the 6-foot-9 James to dominate games at Beale Air Force Base near Sacramento, Calif.

Soon he was on the U.S. Armed Forces All-Star team, and two years ago he led the U.S. to the International Military Sports Council basketball championship, earning tournament MVP honors after recording 12 points, 18 rebounds and six blocks in the title game against Lithuania.

Further playing against stereotype, James was neither a trouble-maker nor a teenager who got in trouble. He simply didn't like school. And he didn't



like following in the footsteps of his three older brothers, all star athletes at Richard Arnold High.

So he stopped going to class during his sophomore year. He would miss a day or two, then a week or two. Then he stopped going altogether.

"Not to fault my parents, but I think I was kind of the forgotten one. I was always the quiet one," James said. "I never really got into much trouble, so my parents didn't have to worry about me too much."

James' father, Darryl Cook, who recently retired from the Air Force Reserves after a career in the Army, steered his son toward the Air Force after James obtained a GED.

He had a choice of signing up for four or six years. He chose six.

"I wanted to get back on track in my life. I like the military lifestyle, it's how I grew up," James said. "My father said until I figured out what I wanted to do for a career, the Air Force would be the better choice.

"The quality of life is a lot better. They treat you like a person instead of a robot."

He was with the military police for all six years, finishing as a staff sergeant. He went from basic security detail — writing up parking tickets, responding to domestic disputes — to three tours overseas in the Mideast.

During those six years a boy became a man, something James and his coach at TCC are acutely aware of.

"When you're in the military you don't realize how much you've benefitted from what you've been through," James said. "I've gained loads of knowledge, discipline.

"I look at my peers (at TCC). It seems like things that come naturally to me from being in the military — being on time to places, doing things the right way, not breaking the rules, enforcing the rules — are completely foreign to them."

Eddie Barnes, the Eagles' coach, marvels at James. "Bernard's an unbelievable person. He's our leader. When he speaks, the rest of the guys listen."

James missed the Eagles' first five games during his freshman campaign while recovering from surgery to repair a cracked right kneecap, his lone military injury incurred while playing on a cement court. After returning, he rounded into shape, averaging 12.7 points and 8.8 rebounds per game, shooting 61.7 percent from the floor and leading the team with 47 blocked shots.

His real challenge, he admits, wasn't on the basketball floor. It was proving that the classroom — his one-time nemesis — would no longer be a foreign, unfriendly place.

Was seeing the world, protecting his country and finding a talent that might one day pay him riches enough to overcome a fear of teachers and books?

James' come-to-Jesus moment took place in June 2008, when he took a seat in an algebra class at TCC.

Photo courtesy of Bernard James



As recently as August 2007, James assisted the Army in southern Iraq in keeping watch over 22,000 prisoners/detainees

"I was really scared at first. It was the whole high-school thing," James said. "I hadn't really been in school for six years.

"When I got to high school I was never really good in school. I could see the doubt in me. I didn't know if I could do it. I didn't know if I was smart enough."

James earned an 88 in the algebra class; good enough for a B-plus. He finished the Fall 2008 semester with two As and three Bs, took a full load in the spring and currently boasts a 2.92 GPA.

He thinks one day he'd like to be a graphic artist, or have his own business. After he follows his hoop dreams, of course.

FSU coach Leonard Hamilton, who attended James' military games, is the reason the long left-hander is in Tallahassee, according to James. NCAA rules prohibit Hamilton from talking about the junior college player.

One thing James is sure of. He's not returning to Savannah, where it all almost came undone for James.

"The whole dropping out of school thing left a bad taste in my mouth," he said. "I know a lot of people who have pretty much screwed up their whole lives just doing stupid stuff.

"I went through the fire and didn't get burned."



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