

TALLAHASSEE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

In the News



March 6, 2010 - April 30, 2010



TALLAHASSEE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

In the News

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Healthcare continuing education conference!

By ABC news reporter

Tallahassee, Florida - Are you currently employed in the dental profession? Are you a nurse, radiological technician or respiratory therapist? Are you interested in receiving free continuing education certifications? Then register today to attend the Healthcare Continuing Education Conference being held on Saturday, March 20th at [Tallahassee Community College](#). Registration begins at 7:15 am and the workshops will run until 1:15 pm.

"The Healthcare Continuing Education Conference hosted at [Tallahassee Community College](#) offers excellent opportunities for healthcare professionals to earn continuing education credits for free," said TCC President Dr. Bill Law. "TCC is pleased to partner with WORKFORCE plus to bring our local medical community information on important health care topics."

The workshops presented are designed for medical professionals and will provide practical insight and information on a variety of topics. These workshops will contribute to learning and development and continuing education certifications will be awarded. The workshops are approved for continuing education certification for the following: dental professions, nursing, radiologic technicians, dentists and respiratory therapists.

Workshops to be presented include: Diabetes Update; Infection Control in the Healthcare Setting: What Everyone Needs to Know; Patient Safety; Oral Cancer, Tobacco and Technology: Making a Difference, One Patient at a Time; An Oriental Odyssey in Radiography; Detecting Oral Cancer; Exposure to Radiation: Why be concerned?; Medical Errors in the Dental Office: Root Cause Analysis, Error Reduction and Prevention and Patient Safety; and Imaging and Techniques for the Additive and Degenerative Pathologies.

"Creating access to continuing education opportunities is vital to the on-going skill development and awareness of this key industry's workforce" stated Kimberly A. Moore, chief executive officer of WORKFORCE plus. "We are pleased to partner with [Tallahassee Community College](#) to provide a no-cost, value-added service to our healthcare community during these tough economic times."

The Healthcare Continuing Education Conference is being provided through a grant received from Workforce Florida Inc. The funding is provided through the American Recovery & Reinvestment Act signed by President Obama in February 2009. The Act has a number of strategic elements that are designed to help stimulate the economy and create or sustain jobs.

Employers interested in registering their employees or healthcare professionals interested in attending, please contact WORKFORCE plus at (850) 414-6085 or email wfp@wfplus.org.

'Passion' was in motion at dance concert

By Patsy Eccles

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

World Ballet Inc. and Tallahassee Community College Dance Company united Feb. 13 to celebrate "The Passion of Dance" with a combined production at TCC's Turner Auditorium. Henry Hernandez, artistic director of WBI, presented a repertoire of both classical and contemporary ballets, including audiences' favorite, "We Will Rock You."

"Conquest of Paradise," choreographed by Hernandez in 1997, symbolizes a reunion with a loved one after death and continuing the journey together. The hauntingly beautiful pas de deux was performed by Hernandez and set on Anna-Manja Larcher, WBI's guest Artist-in-Residence. Little did Mr. Hernandez realize at the time he selected this piece for the performance, it would become his tribute to the memory of his brother Angel Hernandez, who passed away earlier this year. Angel Hernandez was the founder and director of the internationally renowned Cruz Alejandro Quinal Folk Dance Company in Venezuela.

The TCC Dance Company performed four pieces, one of which was "Chaos" choreographed by Aurora Hansen, in collaboration with Dewitt Cooper II. Other works included "Phantasiuim", "Heartbreak" and "Compassion".



Local artists performing at the gala included Jim Hurst and Karen Farrington of Arthur Murray Dance Studio and John Burns and Jenny Frasure of Dance 'Til It Burns, as well as former Broadway musical theatre performer, Susan Livingston Higdon. Guest saxophonist Philip Solomon "King P" Stewart, wooed the audience with the music of Teddy Pendergrass "Close the Door."

Among other choreographers who contributed pieces to the production were Fiona Fairrie, former dancer with the Royal Ballet, Erin Washington and newcomer, Jessica M. Seavor, the recipient of the Annual WBI Choreographer Competition.

Visit www.worldballetinc.com for upcoming performances, auditions and summer programs.

The Wakulla News - March 4, 2010

Chamber Chatter

On behalf of UF IFAS/Wakulla County Extension, I want to thank the Chamber of Commerce

By Staff

On behalf of UF IFAS/Wakulla County Extension, I want to thank the Chamber of Commerce for providing educational opportunities to their members. We especially would like to thank you for allowing us to take advantage of the Burt School Scholarship.

In a busy world of business, it is often difficult to find time to improve our professional skills. The online courses offered by Tallahassee Community College in conjunction with the Center for Workforce Development, provides us with the opportunity to polish or gain new skills. I particularly liked the wide range of classes that were offered. They are all interactive, comprehensive, and

taught by expert instructors. I will definitely be taking advantage of the new courses that are being offered.

Thank you so much for this wonderful educational opportunity.

Sincerely,

Cathy Gray Frank

Office Manager

Office Manager/Assistant Master Gardener Coordinator

UF IFAS/Wakulla Extension

25 Women You Need To Know

Cherry Alexander enjoys her life of service

By Elizabeth M. Mack

DEMOCRAT STAFF WRITER

When April White read the announcement in a Sunday issue of the Tallahassee Democrat announcing the start of nominations for the 25 Women You Need to Know, she instantly thought of Cherry Alexander.

"If I could do half of what she's done, I would figure that I have done well in my lifetime," White said.

This hard-working [Tallahassee Community College](#) retiree has never been known to turn a blind eye to someone in need, especially when it comes to youth. That's why Alexander started the TCC African American History Program, which later evolved into the Cherry Hall Alexander African American History Calendar. This year 25,000 calendars were distributed free to schools in Leon, Gadsden, Wakulla and Jefferson counties, as well as churches, organizations and businesses.

When she came to TCC 10 years ago, Alexander said the college didn't have any Black History Month activities. She approached the administration, offering her services to take on the project.

"I do this because I know that there's a need for all of us to learn about each other," she said. "The more we know about each other, the more we respect each other, get along better and work together better."

However, for Alexander she felt the need to reach out to the students beyond the program, hence her nickname "Mama."

In a letter White submitted with former coworker Rita Dickey, they wrote, "She strives daily to help others achieve just as her sons have done. She thinks of all children as her children. Her home is frequented by students looking for meals, finances, sometimes a bed or just some advice."

Although Alexander is retired, she still stays busy at her church, Philadelphia Primitive Baptist Church, planning all the education events and youth motivational activities. She also mentors and is the lead singer in the choir.

"I enjoy people and life," Alexander said. "My goal is to be a vessel for someone else."



Your home might qualify for free energy-efficiency repairs

SPECIAL TO THE DEMOCRAT

Are high utility bills making an already very difficult economy even harder for you and your family?

If the answer is yes and you meet the low-income requirement, Capital Area Community Action Agency has the answer to your problem. It's the Weatherization Assistance Program, which provides energy-efficiency repairs at no cost for rented or owner-occupied homes of low-income elderly, disabled families or families with children 12 years old or younger.

This program is made possible through \$915,234 in federal stimulus funds received by Capital Area Community Action Agency to serve Leon County residents. These services will be available through January 2012, and Capital Area CAA is taking applications.

Weatherization does work! It provides window and door caulking, attic and floor insulation and duct work, heating and air conditioner tune up and filters, solar window film or solar screens, repair or replacement of windows and doors, and water heater wraps. Weatherization does not include roof or structural repairs or mold removal.

In addition to lowering energy use and utility bills for low-income residents, the stimulus-funded Weatherization Program has a goal of creating more jobs in the construction industry. Through a partnership with Work Force Plus and [Tallahassee Community College](#), we are off to a good start with the job creation component.

However, very few residents who qualify and need the services have taken advantage of this opportunity by submitting applications. Capital Area CAA is, therefore, requesting the help of local churches, social service and governmental agencies, schools and other community organizations in efforts to reach those who are in desperate need of these services. We can provide posters, brochures and copies of applications to organizations willing to be outreach partners.

For residents wishing to apply or get more information about the Weatherization Assistance Program, contact the Capital Area CAA at 765-8782. You also can apply at the Capital Area Community Action Agency, 309 Office Plaza Drive, between 8 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. weekdays.

WCTV - March 16, 2010

TCC Interpreter Dies While Scuba Diving In Florida Keys

Reporter: Lauren Searcy

EMAIL ADDRESS: LAUREN.SEARCY@WCTV.TV

Students and faculty at [Tallahassee Community College](#) are mourning the loss of one of their own.

51-year-old Carol Strickland who was a deaf and hard of hearing interpreter at the college died in a scuba diving accident in the Florida Keys.

The Monroe County Sheriff's Office says Strickland was diving off the coast of Key Largo at the French Reef. When she and her dive partner surfaced they both signaled

they were okay, but Strickland began to struggle on her swim back to the boat.

Deputies say CPR was performed on the boat until they reached the shore but Strickland was pronounced dead once she reached the Mariner's Hospital.

At this time rescue workers have not determined the cause of death.

TCC Interpreter Dies....

continued

Below is information regarding the arrangements for Carol's viewing and funeral:

- The viewing is at Culley's Funeral Home on Riggins Road from 4:00 to 7:00 pm on Thursday.
- The funeral service is at Thomasville Road Baptist Church at 11:00 am on Friday.

In lieu of flowers, the family would appreciate donations to the Building Fund of the Pioneer Baptist Church in Crawfordville in memory of Carol:

Pioneer Baptist Church

486 Beechwood Drive

Crawfordville, FL 32327

If you would like to send a card to the family, please send to Carol's brother:

Stanley Strickland

3514 Lakeshore Drive

Tallahassee, FL 32312

WCTV - March 16, 2010

Florida Association of Community Colleges Convention 2009 Results in New Commission

Reporter: Lauren Searcy

EMAIL ADDRESS: LAUREN.SEARCY@WCTV.TV

News Release from [Tallahassee Community College](#):

Tallahassee, Fla -

Carolyn Lytle, professor of nursing at [Tallahassee Community College](#) helped launch a new Healthcare Education Commission during the 2009 Florida Association of Community Colleges Convention. The formation of the commission fills a growing need for collaboration among community college faculty and staff interested in health care education.

The Florida Association of Community Colleges is the professional association for Florida's 28 public community colleges, their Boards, employees, retirees and associates. The FACC provides legislative awareness and accuracy, support and opportunities for professional development. This last component is accomplished through commissions, which provide an opportunity for members with similar jobs to share skills and knowledge.

As a long-standing member of FACC, Lytle knows the value of such commissions. She also realized how much she and her fellow health care instructors could benefit by sharing knowledge and comparing experiences. Under the

Florida Association of Community Colleges Convention....

continued

leadership of Will Benedicks, TCC Professor and Program Chair of History and President of FACC during 2009, and Byron Todd, TCC Associate Professor in Computer Networking and 2010 Vice-President for Commissions of FACC; and with the support and guidance of the FACC office, Lytle led the creation of the new Healthcare Education Commission.

"Although many commissions have common interests, we haven't had a venue to address the issues that are unique to health care education," said Lytle. "We look forward to growing this commission with the involvement of the fine faculty and staff that provide excellent health care programs throughout the State of Florida."

Lytle serves as Chair of the Commission, which is provisional for its first year. The Commission will go before the board in September and, after demonstrating goal completion, will be granted full status. To learn more about this and other FACC issues, visit www.facc.org.

Tallahassee Democrat - March 17, 2010

Gadsden gets boost with two projects

By Nikki Beare

GADSDEN COUNTY

Two projects planned for this year — in corrections and health care — hold the promise of bringing jobs to Gadsden County.

[Tallahassee Community College](#) President Bill Law announced last week plans to construct a 576-inmate re-entry corrections facility at the TCC Public Safety Institute and the Pat Thomas Law Enforcement Academy on U.S. Highway 90 in Midway.

This project will create jobs both in construction and in employment of instructors when the facility is completed.

"We are trying to move this forward quickly," Law said. He said the facility when completed will help inmates improve their skills and employability.

After taking courses in various skills, and once they are released from prison, inmates will have a chance to find a job, make a living and support their families. The re-entry facility was approved by the Florida Department of Corrections.

There are several additional benefits to Gadsden County. In addition to local jobs during construction and employment of instructors, the facility will have a cafeteria and local purchasing of food, equipment, teaching supplies and more.

Hospital reopening

The second project is one that many citizens doubted would ever happen. Everyone will be happy to know that the planned opening of the reconstructed Gadsden County Hospital, barring anything unforeseen, is set for June 1.

The county has to meet a deadline of June 21, set by the Agency for Health Care Administration, to complete opening of the hospital.

Gadsden gets boost with two projects....

continued

The Gadsden Hospital Inc., board met Monday at the Gadsden County Hospital board room on U.S. 90 to approve the lease of the hospital facility by Hospital Corporation of America (HCA) and Capital Regional Medical Center. On Tuesday evening, the Gadsden County Commission had on its agenda approval of the lease, naming HCA/CRMC the operator of the emergency facility.

"We have already listed the equipment that is required, and it has been ordered," said board chairman Craig McMillan. The total project cost \$14 million. It will be a 24-hour emergency facility.

The lease, for five years with renewals, is for 44,000 square feet (most of the building). The county has agreed to maintain the 15-acre grounds and exterior of the building. The hospital trust income will go to HCA/CRMC, which will receive 50 percent of the surtax not already pledged toward the debt service of the \$10 million bond. The remaining funds are to be used for indigent care as determined by the Gadsden County Health Council.

HCA operates 165 hospitals nationwide, and Capital Regional Medical Center is a for-profit hospital located in Tallahassee.

Gadsden County has been without a hospital for several years. Gadsden County Chairman Eugene Lamb said he was pleased at the result of these recent activities.

Additional Facts | ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Nikki Beare writes about Gadsden County for the Democrat. She and her husband own Beare's Berries, a you-pick blueberry farm near Havana, and Nikki Beare & Associates Inc., a communications business. She is in Florida's Women's Hall of Fame. Contact her at lordbeare@cs.com or call (850) 933-6925.

WCTV - March 17, 2010

TCC Now Accepting Applications for STEM Scholarships

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. (March 17, 2010) - [Tallahassee Community College's](#) STEM Program, an initiative within the College's Division of Science and Mathematics, is currently accepting scholarship applications for the 2010-11 academic year.

The STEM Program is designed to increase Florida's science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) work force by assisting academically talented but financially needy students earn their college degree in an associated field. The STEM Program also tutors and supports students through degree completion while partnering with employers to facilitate job placement.

A \$2,500 annual scholarship (\$5,000 total) is available to earn a two-year college degree in the STEM areas. A minimum GPA of 3.0 is required and financial need is determined by the U.S. Department of Education. Funded by the National Science Foundation, STEM scholarships also provide students with individual learning plans, mentoring, study groups and internship opportunities.

Past STEM scholarship recipients, including 2009 TCC graduate Ashley Johnson, have a proven track record. Johnson, who is from Plymouth, Fla., used her STEM experience, as well as TCC's Internship Program, to land an internship at Teligent EMS. That experience aided her

TCC Now Accepting Applications for STEM Scholarships....

continued

in securing a second internship at the prestigious Brookhaven National Laboratory in New York last summer.

Johnson is currently attending Florida A&M University and is majoring in mathematics with a minor in biology.

Students interested in the STEM Program can apply for scholarships online at www.tcc.fl.edu/scholarships.

TCC is encouraging students to apply for STEM scholarships by May 1 for early consideration. The scholarship deadline is August 22.

For more information on the STEM Program, contact Wilbert Butler, Jr., by phone, (850) 201-8114, or email butlerw@tcc.fl.edu.

Tallahassee Democrat - March 18, 2010

Gadsden gets boost with two projects

By Elizabeth M. Mack

DEMOCRAT STAFF WRITER

Workforce Plus and [Tallahassee Community College](#) are offering free training opportunities to health-care professionals.

The Healthcare Community Education Conference is being held Saturday at TCC with a host of workshops that can also give certifications in dental professions, nursing, radiologic technicians and respiratory therapists.

"This event affords health-care professionals from a variety of different fields an opportunity to obtain the training needed to ensure that their skills and knowledge remain current," said Kimberly Moore, Workforce Plus executive director.

"Additionally, it offers the added benefit of receiving the training locally and at no cost." The participants must be currently licensed or certified health-care workers.

Moore said the estimated cost of the conference is \$2,500, not including staff wages for those who participate. It is being funded by the Healthcare Resurgence Grant.

Lois Ewen, dean for the healthcare profession divisions at TCC, explained that this is a great opportunity for health-care professionals because continuing education hours are needed every other year to renew licenses.

"To get certifications they can either go to health-care conferences, do things online or go to school," she said. "It could be pretty costly. This is a great opportunity for health-care professionals to come together and get updated for free."

Registration starts at 7:15 a.m. The workshops will end at 1:15 p.m. For more information, call (850) 414-6085.



Summer classes at TCC just became
even more affordable!



**Now you can use a
Federal Pell Grant
to pay for TCC summer classes.**

If you qualify for a **Federal Pell Grant** for **spring and fall classes**, you are probably eligible for a **summer grant** also!

For more details go to **www.tcc.fl.edu/fa** or call **(850) 201-8399**.

Tallahassee Democrat - March 18, 2010

Meeting Dalai Lama is enlightening

By **John Van Gieson**

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

Ed H. Moore, president of the Independent Colleges & Universities of Florida, joined a group of educators in a forum with His Holiness the Dalai Lama, asking him questions in front of an audience of educators at Broward College.

Also participating in the forum was **Tallahassee Community College President** Bill Law. The theme of the forum was "The Responsibility of Higher Education in Today's Global Society."

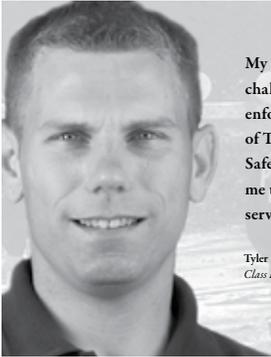
In speeches at three South Florida colleges and universities, the Dalai Lama urged the United States to continue spreading its values of freedom, liberty and democracy throughout the world. Moore asked the Dalai Lama how he developed self-worth in students so they would be receptive to his teachings.

"He said, 'You start with one and from that you go to 10, then 100, then 1,000, then 16 million and then you get the whole world focusing on the value of higher education to society,'" Moore said.

The Dalai Lama, the spiritual leader of Tibetan Buddhists, presented each of the educators who shared the Broward College stage with him with a Khata, a white silk scarf embroidered with symbols and teachings of the world's great religions.

"This guy has charisma that just doesn't quit," Moore said. "He has this aura of tranquility and a tremendous sense of humor. He is a very, very funny man."

"I was really impressed by the tremendous amount of positive energy he has on the value of the individual," Moore said.



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



WE ARE
the workforce experience

High quality education Affordable tuition Flexible schedules

Train Protect Serve



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!

Pretena Gibson,
A.A.S., Electronic Engineering Technology,
Class of '09



WE ARE
the workforce experience

High quality education Affordable tuition Flexible schedules

Update your skills
and stay in the game!



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.

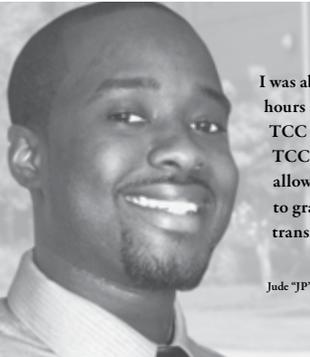
Alycia Malicz
A.A.S., Graphic Design, Class of '10



WE ARE
the workforce experience

Take classes online. Anytime. Anywhere.

Your Degree on Your Time



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.

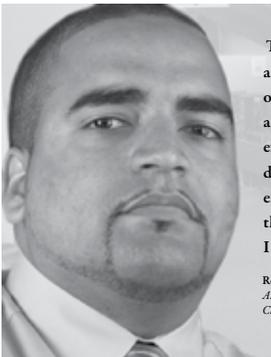
Jude "JP" Paul, TCC Class of 2008



WE ARE
the college experience

High quality education Affordable tuition

Flexible Schedules and Online Classes



TCC's Drafting Design and Technology program offers challenging courses and real time hands-on experience. I have no doubt I will be ready to enter the job market with the professional skills that I need.

Rodney Broussard,
A.S., Drafting and Design Technology,
Class of '10



WE ARE
the workforce experience

High quality education Flexible schedules

Prepare for your career with
Cutting Edge Technology & Instruction



During my senior year the requirements to get in to Florida State became more difficult. I enrolled at TCC and got my associate's degree and then transferred to FSU. Going to TCC first was the perfect choice for me. Many of my professors made learning so interesting that I never missed a class!

Brittaney Johns, TCC Class of 2007



WE ARE
the college experience

High quality education Affordable tuition

#1 transfer school to Florida State

TCC Host FUN-damental Reading

A celebration of reading.

Email Address: News@wctv.tv

The following is a press release:

[Tallahassee Community College](#)'s Office of Student Volunteerism and Student Organizations Council are partnering to host FUN-damental Reading on Saturday, March 20 from 10:00 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The event will be held in the Lifetime Sports Complex.

The event expects to draw 200-300 children, preschool through fifth grade, for a daylong celebration of reading.

A host of distinguished guests will serve as celebrity readers, including Tallahassee Mayor John Marks and his wife, Jane; members of TCC's District Board of Trustees and Tallahassee City and Leon County Commissioners.

The reading celebration will be followed by a carnival featuring lunch, music, games, activities and face painting.

For more information call 850-201-6146.

Newsome's Ally Ledenham gets life, softball career back on track after a horrific car crash

BY JOEY KNIGHT

LITHIA — The photos scream fatality.

In each one, the mangled black sports car resembles an empty soda can squashed by a thick hand. The passenger's side is caved in and the sunroof shattered. The trunk is crumpled metal. The dashboard is gone.

"It's not a vehicle," says Chris Ledenham, provider of the photos. "It was absolutely crushed."

Chris' daughter, Newsome High softball standout Ally Ledenham, was extricated from this morbid wreckage, and a semblance of faith in humanity rekindled.

The accident occurred on a rainy afternoon in May 2009. It cost Ally a small portion of a kidney (among other injuries), the rest of her junior year at Newsome, her entire summer travel-ball season and about three weeks' complete bed rest.

It didn't cost her the scholarship she had been promised by [Tallahassee Community College](#). The TCC coaches saw the same photos, but darned if they saw any negatives.

Ally signed in late January.

"We didn't even think twice about it," TCC assistant Jennifer McKibben said.

...

A robust girl with a broad smile and sandy blond hair, Ally, a first baseman and right-handed pitcher, can smash the daylights out of a softball.

Two springs ago, she collected 37 RBIs as a Newsome sophomore, earning Times' first-team all-county honors. Last season, she hit nearly .300 with a pair of home runs and 18 more RBIs and struck out 55 batters in 41 innings.

Shortly after that 2009 campaign, she was headed to Plant City on State Road 39 for a practice with her travel-ball team, the South Florida Pride. Newsome teammate Brittany Olsen, who almost religiously rode with her to these practices, was out of town.

Because it was raining, Ally remembers telling herself to slow down, which she did, though she acknowledges her 2008 Mazda 3 still was traveling 5-10



miles over the 55 mph speed limit. About that time, an elevated railroad track sneaked up on her. When she hit it, the car rolled and hit a telephone pole.

"I don't remember it a lot," said Ally, knocked out briefly by the impact. "I remember like waking up and trying to get my seatbelt off."

According to Chris, an off-duty police officer happened upon the scene, dug some tools from the back of his car and cut Ally out before the ambulance arrived. That was the incident's compassionate twist.

Here's the creepy one: An employee at a nearby funeral home also drove by, caught one look at the vehicle and called home to say he likely would be summoned to work that night.

"That just gave me absolute goose bumps," Chris said.

By the time the ambulance got Ally to Tampa General Hospital, she was conscious and talking, but had six broken ribs, several fractured vertebrae, a fractured pelvis, a lacerated spleen and liver, kidney damage and a concussion.

Newsome's Ally Ledenham gets life....

continued



She initially was hospitalized five days, but had to return once when her lung collapsed. An honors student with a 4.1 weighted GPA, she missed the waning stretch of her junior year and the accompanying final exams, but administrators allowed her grades to stand where they were at the time of the accident and promoted her.

In terms of her softball career, fate wasn't as compassionate.

"I missed my whole summer," said Ally, the second-oldest of Chris and Rob Ledenham's four girls.

And not just any summer. With the Pride, she planned to play roughly two high-profile tournaments a month (not counting showcase events), exposing herself to college recruiters who might be interested in a rangy kid who could pitch and pummel a rise ball. The idea, of course, was for such exposure to parlay into a scholarship offer.

"High school season is the same season as college season, so most coaches don't have a chance to come out and watch you," Ally said. "So it's really all about what you do in travel ball."

Yet the only traveling Ally did in the ensuing weeks came in short, excruciating, indoor increments. Before the lung eventually re-inflated itself, sitting up in bed was a debilitating task.

Chris estimates Ally wasn't "really able to get around" until mid summer. Two months after the accident, when Ally

mentioned to her parents she'd like to try and resume softball, they laughed. Ally didn't.

"I thought (any scholarship chances) were like, ruined," she said.

Benevolence swooped in from the Panhandle.

...

A couple of years back, Ally had put together a highlight video and sent it to several colleges, big and small. Around the end of her sophomore year, she took a trip to Tallahassee to visit older sister Alyssa, who was attending Florida State, and stopped by the TCC campus.

She met the Eagles coaches, who loved what they had seen on the video, not to mention Ally's attitude, academic achievements and physical upside.

"We kind of said to ourselves, 'If we get this kid we'd be really lucky,'" McKibben said.

According to TCC athletic director Rob Chaney, the Eagles softball program annually has 24 scholarships to give, with only 12 of those full rides.

Ask any collegiate coach in any sport and you're likely to get variations of the same refrain: One or two recruiting mistakes can be perilous to a program. Shortly after Ally's accident, McKibben and Eagles coach Patti Townsend saw the photos and knew a painful, proverbial road lay ahead of her. But they made sure that road still led to their doorstep.

"Even if she couldn't play we still would've loved to have her," McKibben said. "She's a kid you want as part of your program no matter what capacity she could bring to your table."

Ally resumed playing in October, working out with another travel team in Fishhawk coached by Tom Rectenwald. That first day, she couldn't go for more than 30 minutes and experienced a sharp pain down her right side when she tried pitching. She needed two weeks off before she tried another practice.

The following month, she made her official visit to TCC and worked out with the team. McKibben recalls Ally being frustrated by her performance.

Newsome's Ally Ledenham gets life....

continued

Two months later, Ally, who hadn't played an organized high school game or high-profile travel-ball contest since the accident, signed an academic/athletic scholarship with TCC. Chris estimates the coaches' leap of faith comes out to roughly \$3,500 annually.

"They're so nice," Ally said.

The Eagles' good-faith investment appears more promising each contest. Though she still requires ice packs and Advil after each game or practice, Ally is hitting .385 with four doubles. Last Monday, nearly 10 months to the day after being told she was fortunate to be alive, she smashed a line-drive homer in a 3-2 win at Plant City.

"I thought maybe there would be a little, 'Coach, I'm hurting too much today' or whatever. None of that," Wolves coach Dawn Vanella said. "She's definitely holding her own."

Meantime, the Eagles hold her scholarship.

"It didn't matter if she was not going to play, was going to play," McKibben said, "she was going to be a part of our program."

Joey Knight can be reached at jknight@sptimes.com

WCTV - March 26, 2010

TCC Students Stay Competitive

Keeping up with the times may be the key to landing a job.

Reporter: Amy Long

Tallahassee Community College students are able to stay competitive in the job market with two new programs.

With today's medical records already going into an electronic format- the Electronic Health Specialist Program allows students with a knack for health or computer skills to combine to two and be the star applicant to future jobs.

Carol Easley the Director of Workforce Creations at TCC says, "We all have to work a little smarter because with the economy the way it is we don't necessarily have the resources to add people to jobs. So, we have to use the tools that we have more effectively."

The Electronic Health Information Specialist Program starts the first part of May.

A second program keeping Pharmacy Technicians up to date is also being offered.

For more information follow the URL address below:

<http://workforce.tcc.fl.edu/>

Community, people have potential to improve, says Rehwinkel Vasilinda

By Dave Hodges

BUSINESS MATTERS EDITOR

Michelle Rehwinkel Vasilinda sees potential for improvement in the community and in its people. It's the thing that energizes her work on behalf of Tallahassee and the state of Florida.

"I would say a desire — and this sounds corny — to make the world a better place," she said of her motivation. "Where I live, I wanted to be part of something that would make the community a better place."

The list of projects and organizations she has supported is both lengthy and varied, ranging from Legal Services of North Florida and Zonta International to Common Cause, the Oasis Center Board of Directors and the Girl Scouts. She is also one of the Tallahassee Democrat's 25 Women You Need to Know, the annual celebration of contributions women make in the community.

"I love working on behalf of children, especially young women, girls," said Rehwinkel Vasilinda, who was elected to represent Florida House District 9 in 2008.

This month the Girl Scouts visited the Legislature and a ceremony was held in their honor.

"That was a real highlight of the week because I enjoy working with the Girls Scouts and also being a Girl Scout," she said.

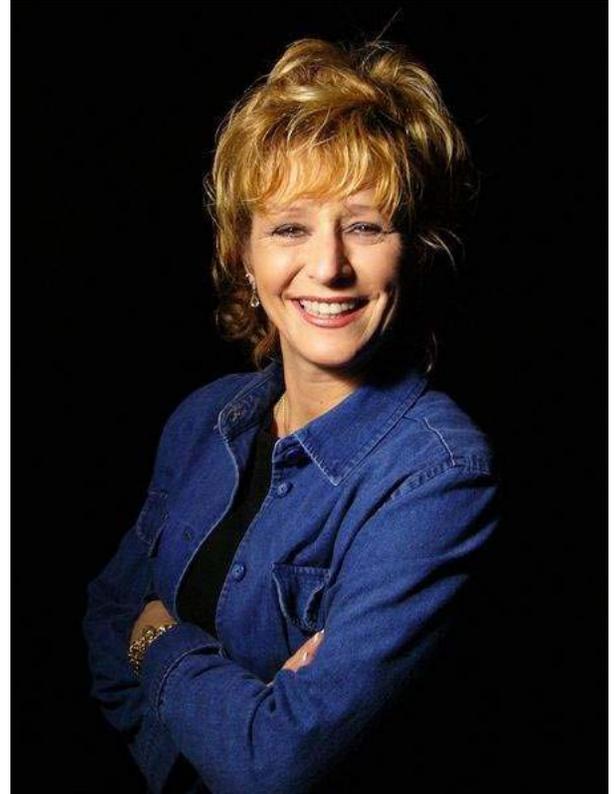
An attorney, Rehwinkel Vasilinda has been a professor of legal studies at [Tallahassee Community College](#) for more than 22 years. She traces her interest in politics and government back to her youth, when she first recalled wanting to know what makes Florida work.

Years later, her efforts in the Legislature are directed at the state and its future. She says leaders must have a vision for what could be, but also see points of consensus among colleagues who have different views and agendas.

Once that core of agreement is established, leaders can move out from there to find solutions for pressing problems. Rehwinkel Vasilinda says that's what she likes to be involved in. "I hope I can help do that. It's something that really fascinates me," she added.

Her proudest achievement is raising her two daughters, she says. Husband Mike Vasilinda, who nominated her, describes her as "fearless, logical and intelligent" with a long history of community work.

"Michelle is one of the hardest working and innovative people you will ever meet," he wrote.



Michelle Rehwinkel Vasilinda was elected to represent Florida House District 9 in 2008. (Special to Business Matters)

The Old College Try

By focusing on students at risk of dropping out, donors are finding ways to move the needle on college graduation rates

By Evan Sparks

Forty-three. That's the percentage of college freshmen who will drop out of school before getting a bachelor's degree. Community colleges—even worse. There, over 69 percent of students will drop out before receiving a credential. That means only 57 percent of college freshmen—and a mere 31 percent of first-years in junior college—will earn the degree they ostensibly set out to obtain. By any measure, that's a failing grade.

Bill Gates is a college drop-out—but he knows he's the exception that proves the rule. That's why he has committed his foundation to doubling the number of low-income people who earn a post-secondary credential by age 26. President Barack Obama frequently repeats his goal of returning America to having the most college graduates in the world, per-capita, by 2020. Thought-leaders and eminences from both sides of the aisle call for action.

But while the headline numbers command attention all by themselves, the contours of college completion rates suggest bigger problems:

Almost 60 percent of black college students do not graduate from a four-year program within six years.

Almost 54 percent of Hispanic college students don't graduate within six years.

Male college students are 7 percentage points less likely to graduate than women; black men are 11 percentage points less likely to graduate than black women.

White female college students are more than twice as likely as black or Hispanic men to graduate from college.

College students from the top income quartile are almost twice as likely to graduate as students in the bottom quartile.

Although these ethnic and gender disparities are slightly smaller at the community college level, they are still substantial.

Nor are college graduation rates uniform across educational institutions. Elite universities such as Harvard and Yale have near-perfect graduation rates. Much lower

rates persist among the campuses frequented by the students most at risk of dropping out: low-income young people, ethnic minorities, and first-generation college students.

The consequences for these at-risk students of dropping out are high. A bachelor's degree continues to offer a hefty long-term wage premium over a high school diploma. Moreover, a student who enters college often takes on substantial debt—but the debt doesn't disappear if she drops out. And the government has little to show for students who receive federal loans and grants but who fail to graduate.

Failing to graduate from college has financial and emotional consequences for individuals—especially given the expectation of everyone from parents and teachers to the President of the United States that they should be bound for college—but it also takes an expensive toll on the public fisc. For example, less than half of federal Pell Grant recipients studying for a bachelor's complete a degree within six years. In 2010, that means that more than \$13 billion in taxpayer grant money will be given toward degrees that will never be awarded. And the Pell Grants represent just a small share of federal and state funds directed to higher education.

In light of this challenge for low-income students and minorities, philanthropists are changing the conversation about college. For decades, colleges, policymakers, and philanthropists have endlessly promoted college access. Get students in the door. That's the most important thing. Once there, they'll take care of themselves—or so went the reasoning. College enrollments responded: from 1973 to 1997, the enrollment rate rose by nearly 20 percentage points to slightly under 70 percent of recent high school graduates, and has remained at that level since.

But now, the emphasis is shifting from access to completion. Dozens of foundations and philanthropists—from mega-foundations to small regional funders to individual donors—have re-centered their education grantmaking on college completion.

Their work is diverse and tailored to the communities

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continued

they serve. They are sponsoring and disseminating research about the problem—and its solutions. They are working with individual students, helping provide much-needed social capital (what one donor calls “college knowledge”) for first-generation college students. They are thinking through a whole range of incentives (for colleges and students alike), looking for cost-effective ways to get students to stay in school. They are working with institutions, from small community colleges to massive research universities, in an effort to improve advising and measurement.

Perhaps most importantly, many philanthropists are finding ways to work backwards, to reach students well before they enter college, getting them ready for the challenges of higher education. Success in college, they have come to realize, begins in the freshman year—of high school.

Diving into Data

“This is a part of the educational system that has not had the kind of attention toward low-income, African-American, and Hispanic outcomes that our K–12 system has had,” says Marie Groark, senior program officer at the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. In fact, because graduation rates do not account for lower high school graduation and college enrollment rates among ethnic minorities and low-income students, disparities in college graduation rates are actually understated, according to William Bowen, Matthew Chingos, and Michael McPherson in their 2009 book, *Crossing the Finish Line: Completing College at America’s Public Universities*.

Finishing high school without being ready for college is the number-one reason students drop out. According to a report from the Bridgespan Group, “Academic preparation is the most effective means of increasing the odds that students will graduate from high school ready for college, matriculate, and eventually receive their degrees.”

Some students, of course, drop out because of financial problems—perhaps because they need to work full-time or deal with urgent financial concerns. “At every point in our analysis we find that students from high-income families are significantly more likely to graduate from college, and to graduate ‘on time,’ than are students with comparable qualifications from low-income families,” write Bowen, Chingos, and McPherson.

Many of the grants made in this area thus far have been intended to refine and publicize what we know about college graduation rates. (The official graduation rate, reported to the government as a condition for receiving federal student aid, is calculated as the percentage of first-year, full-time students who graduate within 150 percent of the time normally required.) One of the first foundations to take on college success in a major way was Lumina Foundation for Education. From 2001 to 2003, it awarded what it calls “the hallmark grants” in order to find and collect knowledge on student success.

Lumina learned that higher participation rates in collegiate activities correlate with higher graduation rates. It sponsored research on first-year programs that help students stay on track—when they are most vulnerable to falling behind. It also funded research into how undergraduate “learning communities” can help at-risk college students.

In 2009, with funding from the Gates Foundation (then a new entrant into the world of college completion), the American Enterprise Institute (AEI) published *Diplomas and Dropouts*, which pointed out not only that colleges were failing to graduate large numbers of students, but that there is wide variance in graduation rates even among four-year institutions of similar selectivity. In the “non-competitive” category—whose colleges are more likely to enroll low-income, minority, and first-generation collegians—the range in graduation rates between the top third and bottom third is 32 percentage points.

The AEI report was directed to policymakers and thought leaders, but there are useful tools available for students, parents, and guidance counselors, too. With support from Lumina, the Education Trust created *CollegeResults.org*, which allows users to compare graduation rates for thousands of colleges and universities. They can compile a list for comparison or see where a college fits among peer institutions.

“College Knowledge”

Tuesday, 7:30 in the morning. Even as the silent campus of Indiana University–Purdue University at Indianapolis (IUPUI) waits for the sun to rise, 25 young African-American and Latino men, wearing neckties and neatly pressed slacks, are up and about. Their morning appointment: the weekly meeting of the Student African

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American Brotherhood (SAAB).

Nathaniel Williams was one of those men. Now a high school teacher, Williams was president of the SAAB chapter before graduating from IUPUI in 2009. The agenda for the morning meetings vary—topics include study skills, men’s health, or relationships—but, Williams says, they always address the “seriousness of the crisis facing the black male in America, and especially the black male in college.”

At IUPUI, it was a big crisis: only 39 percent of African-American men at IUPUI returned after their first year, and just 12 percent graduated in six years. Thus, IUPUI used a Lumina grant in 2003 to launch a SAAB chapter on campus. SAAB (which also targets Latino men, and is open to all students) provides a student-directed community of support, encouragement, and discipline. SAAB members run their own meetings, Williams says. They set up mentoring relationships between freshmen and upperclassmen.

Through its university-sponsored office, SAAB also offers what student success director Khalilah Shabazz calls “intrusive advising.” She meets with students throughout the semester and helps them cut through university red tape. “We do a lot of text messaging with them,” she says wryly—today’s students seldom respond to email. SAAB also works with African-American and Latino men before they arrive at IUPUI, easing the transition with a summer bridge program.

Student initiative plus university support equals rapid adaptation, as SAAB has expanded in Indiana, says Philip Seabrook, assistant vice president at Indiana University. “The guys at Indiana State in Terre Haute are very serious about wearing a shirt and tie or a full suit on their meeting days,” he explains. “The message is that we’re about business, and we’re about helping each other through this process.”

SAAB members “turn personal passion into academic success,” Shabazz says, and their results back up that conclusion. According to a 2007 Lumina report, SAAB retention rates at IUPUI ranged from 62.5 to 90 percent. And, Seabrook says, the six-year graduation rate for African-American men at IUPUI has more than doubled to 25 percent. One student, Williams recalls, partied his way to a 1.3 GPA—before participation in SAAB gave him the purpose and solidarity he needed to graduate with a 3.08.

As SAAB illustrates, money isn’t necessarily the biggest factor in getting students through college. Culture is equally important—if not even more. Students who graduate tend to have a high level of internalized cultural preparedness for college. Cynthia Rivera Weissblum, president and CEO of the Edwin Gould Foundation, calls it “college knowledge”—the social capital that students need in order to succeed.

The at-risk students philanthropists are keen to help don’t have that reserve of college knowledge, and they have to accumulate it from scratch. They don’t know where to go when they have an academic problem—or even for routine matters like paying tuition and getting a student ID. They don’t know that they can meet with professors during office hours, and their work schedules are busy enough besides that they can’t even make them. And although a young person may have triumphed over the low expectations of an urban high school, college classes are on a whole different level.

Ideally, students should arrive on campus with a reserve of college knowledge. Some grantees are working to achieve this by involving students’ families in the process. “Strategies include engaging parents before their son or daughter starts college, or very early in the first year of college,” says Wendy Ault, executive director of the MELMAC Education Foundation, which supports college retention and completion initiatives exclusively in Maine. “In the freshman year,” she adds, “when the students are quite connected developmentally to their parents, it’s good to have a parent asking, ‘Don’t you have a test in economics coming up?’” One-third of MELMAC’s 18 grantee colleges are engaging parents during the freshman year.

Gains in college knowledge can be fleeting, however. They require hard work in order to be sustained. In 2003, the University of Southern Indiana (USI) used a grant from Lumina to launch a series of online “lessons” for students and their parents. The lessons allowed students and parents to identify areas of struggle with sufficient time to resolve them. “Freshman-to-sophomore retention jumped by more than 10 percentage points when both students and parents participated in the ‘lessons,’” Lumina reported in 2007. But these promising results have failed to translate into gains at USI. The program was discontinued; USI’s six-year graduation rate rose from 31.3 percent in 2003 to 33.2 in 2005, before falling to 30.7

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continued

percent in 2007, the last year for which data is available.

There are more promising philanthropic interventions elsewhere in Indiana. “We know that the work that happens in the first year, and particularly in the first semester, makes an enormous impact, particularly for low-income and first-generation students,” says IUPUI’s Scott Evenbeck. Evenbeck is dean of University College—founded in 1997 with support from the Lilly Endowment—into which entering students are enrolled as a “launch pad” to their degree-granting colleges. “We’ve brought retention from the low 60s to 74 percent this year, and the graduation rate has come from the teens to just about 34 percent,” he explains.

University College’s programs for first-year students include mandatory orientation and a summer bridge program to get students acquainted with college life. IUPUI also offers “learning communities”—courses that help freshmen get connected to IUPUI and its academic programs. They are taught by an “academic support team” that includes a faculty member, academic advisor, student mentor, and librarian. “That’s clearly the intervention that’s made the biggest difference,” Evenbeck says.

Mastering the Incentives

College knowledge can propel a student to a degree. So can incentives. Philanthropists are well aware of the power of incentives in other areas, from welfare reform to prizes.

The Gates Foundation is examining how incentives—those of both students and colleges—affect graduation rates. “We’re going to explore how the huge amount of financial aid in this country could be used as an incentive to encourage completion,” Melinda Gates said in a November 2008 speech announcing the foundation’s post-secondary strategy. “This will include working with partners to develop changes in tuition and government funding so the college gets less money at the front end, just for enrolling a student, and more at the back end, after that student receives a diploma or credential.”

According to Richard Vedder, executive director of the Center for College Affordability and Productivity, many colleges don’t have the right incentives to graduate students in a timely manner. “There’s actually a cash

incentive for colleges not to graduate students!” he exclaims, his voice rising with anxious energy. “From the schools’ point of view, in many cases, they get per-student state subsidies.” Vedder proposes that state and federal policymakers re-orient student aid and college subsidies to focus on student outcomes, especially for students at the margins of performance. Policymakers should restructure subsidies to public colleges to tilt the institutional incentive toward student success.

The Gates Foundation is also experimenting with financial incentives to spur students to finish their degrees. “We will explore how performance-based scholarships can provide greater financial incentive to finish school,” Melinda Gates said. “We have evidence from a pilot study in Louisiana that giving students scholarships if they increase their course load to full-time dramatically increases completion rates. We will be funding a demonstration of performance-based scholarships over the next three years in as many as 8 states and 15 post-secondary institutions.”

MDRC, a research organization that evaluates programs to help low-income families, conducted the Louisiana study. It offered grants of up to \$2,000 to low-income students at two New Orleans community colleges who maintained a minimum credit-hour level and GPA. The grants were paid directly to the students, who could use them for non-educational expenses—which can be just as big a reason for dropping out as hefty tuition bills.

Thirty percent more students in the grant-receiving group enrolled in courses in their second semester than in the group that did not receive the support—and MDRC reported that positive effects persisted into subsequent semesters, even though no grant was offered. Although the encouraging results were disrupted by Hurricane Katrina, they are now being tested through 2012 in Ohio, New York, New Mexico, and California.

“In many cases, dropouts, especially low-income students, turn out to be a function of very small amounts of money,” says Mark Schneider, vice president at the American Institutes for Research. “For example, a student might be only \$100 short of buying textbooks needed for a course. The student withdraws from the course or, worse yet, fails, loses financial aid, and then drops out. A small but targeted support program can make a big impact—a good opportunity for a donor new to the field

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or with limited resources.”

From Junior College to Senior Year

Community colleges enroll 44 percent of America’s undergraduates, offering career-focused degree and certificate programs or general coursework that prepares graduates to matriculate at a university. Community colleges are more likely to serve minorities, low-income students, and adult learners. Their three-year graduation rate in 2004 stood at just under 31 percent, although a larger proportion of entering students eventually obtained a two-year degree, four-year degree, or successfully transferred within six years.

These colleges represent a place where philanthropists can drive a wedge in college completion. According to Bowen, Chingos, and McPherson, “students who began their studies at two-year colleges were much less likely to earn bachelor’s degrees than were similar students who started at four-year institutions.” However, they add, students who succeed at community college and transfer to universities “graduate at higher rates than first-time freshmen with similar entering credentials.” If community colleges can boost their own completion and successful transfer rates, suggest Bowen, Chingos, and McPherson, it will boost graduation rates at four-year colleges, too.

To that end, Lumina launched Achieving the Dream in 2004. It’s a coalition of community colleges and charitable organizations with “a student success agenda based on data, making student success the highest priority at the institution,” says Samuel Cargile, Lumina’s vice president for grantmaking. Since then, Achieving the Dream has grown to comprise 102 institutions in 21 states. Lumina’s initial investments have been joined by other philanthropic partners; the other partners’ support for Achieving the Dream now outstrips the \$60 million that Lumina has given. Other philanthropies supporting Achieving the Dream colleges include the Winthrop Rockefeller Foundation in Arkansas, Houston Endowment in Texas, College Spark in Washington state, the Heinz Endowments in Pennsylvania, the W. K. Kellogg Foundation and the Kresge Foundation in Michigan, and Knowledge Works Foundation in Ohio.

The goal: practical application. “We’re interested

in research that’s action-oriented,” explains James Applegate, Lumina’s senior vice president for program development. Once a college joins Achieving the Dream, it is required to bore down on its student achievement data. Only after rigorous self-analysis is the college guided through a strategy-development process. For example, several colleges wanted to upgrade their remedial education offerings, so they have worked on refining course placement, instilling study skills through remedial classes, and offering individual education programs. Achieving the Dream colleges have found good results with “learning communities,” said Applegate, and Lumina is sponsoring research to learn how to make them work better. Achieving the Dream colleges have also refined their advising and worked with K–12 education leaders to improve college readiness.

Take a look: at Tallahassee Community College (TCC) in Florida, a student opens her computer and logs on to TCC Passport—the student portal. She can access her email and course readings, check on her financial aid, and search the library catalog. And she can keep tabs on how fast she’s completing her degree requirements. TCC Passport gives students red, yellow, and green lights on key college requirements, from courses completed to tuition payments.

“We know a lot about our students that we didn’t used to tell them. Now everything we know about a student shows up in that student’s portal,” says William D. Law Jr., president of TCC. “The student has access to his or her whole record. When the faculty member sits down with a student, the record is fully available to both parties.” TCC Passport is not the college’s only student success initiative. Orientation and advising programs use data to identify students who are falling behind. TCC—one of the first Achieving the Dream colleges—also requires students who are placed into two or more remedial courses to take a “College Success” class.

To support its members’ reforms, Achieving the Dream provides coaches and “data facilitators” to work side-by-side with college administrators. It also works to build a more robust public policy framework for student success. And Achieving the Dream continues to grow. “We have learned a lot, and we think we’re ready to begin connecting to more community colleges with what we’ve

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continued

learned," says Applegate.

Ready on Day One

It's the fact that can't be ignored.

The number-one factor in college completion isn't mentoring programs, scholarships, incentives, or institutional reforms. Those can all be helpful. But none of them is nearly as important as a student's readiness for college-level work. Completion of a rigorous high school course load makes students several percentage points more likely to finish college. Thus, for many philanthropists, college completion begins in high school.

"High schools as currently configured are not working," says Anne B. Stanton, program director for youth at the James Irvine Foundation in California. "We have young people spending long hours in remedial courses in college." The problem: by taking a one-size-fits-all approach, many high schools fail to catch the interest—or imagination—of students. By turning them off to education, schools turn students away from post-

secondary opportunities—and from opportunities to earn a good living and participate in civic life.

In 2006, the Irvine Foundation created ConnectEd: The California Center for College and Career. ConnectEd promotes "Linked Learning," a set of reforms at the high school level that combines rigorous academics with relevant experience and the boost students need to pursue post-secondary training. Linked Learning includes four core components: academics (of sufficient rigor to ensure students succeed, without remediation, at a California state university), technical training (an eye toward skill-intensive, well-paying jobs), work-based learning (internships, apprenticeships, and school-based enterprises), and support services (including counseling and supplemental education).

All of these components constitute a "pathway" in a particular industry. However, the academic component leaves students well-prepared to take a different path if they choose, and students can switch between pathways if they like. As an example, ConnectEd's engineering pathway includes the standard academic core, as well as a series of technical courses designed by Project Lead the Way, such as "Digital Electronics" and "Computer-

Integrated Manufacturing." To engage and inspire students, the engineering pathway includes "integrated units" on topics like naval architecture, bridge building, and ballistic weaponry.

"We believe that Linked Learning will fuel young people's success in post-secondary education, ensuring that students will be more enthusiastic and boosting their achievement," Stanton explains. One initial study found that students graduating from a Linked Learning program were more likely to pass the California High School Exit Exam, complete more rigorous courses, and graduate from high school.

In 2009, six California districts (out of 17 that applied) were chosen by ConnectEd to receive funding to offer at least four pathways each. Since each pathway can accommodate 400–500 students, Stanton adds, Irvine's current grant could affect up to 12,000 young people—and up to 18,000 as three more districts receive implementation grants this spring.

"We're continuing to build out the post-secondary side of Linked Learning," Stanton says—focusing primarily on community colleges. Nonetheless, it is a promising approach to setting students on their way to post-secondary success well before they leave high school.

Getting—and Staying—on Track

There are hundreds of programs that help high school students get into college, and probably as many that help them succeed once they're in. But very few provide a complete bridge to college, spanning the eight or more years from being a high school freshman to college graduation. In New York City, Sponsors for Educational Opportunity (SEO) does just that.

Founded in 1963 in Manhattan, SEO delivers a rigorous academic enrichment program for under-served, low-income minority students. Through SEO's Saturday Academy, after-school programs, and vacation days spent in school, students spend a total of 60 extra days each year—a 33 percent increase—doing academic work. "Extended education is really the single most significant intervention," says Cynthia Rivera Weissblum of the Edwin Gould Foundation, which has funded SEO for decades. "We're talking about sending a young person to college equally as prepared as any student who comes from a

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continued

well-resourced family.”

SEO offers programs that work to transmit “college knowledge” to students. When it comes time for them to make the leap to college, SEO helps them identify colleges with high graduation rates. In both high school and college, students tap into SEO’s network of 6,000 alumni.

One of the Gould Foundation’s primary contributions to SEO, Weissblum said, has been a rigorous, college-preparatory curriculum that would be the pride of any affluent suburban high school. SEO doesn’t just push its students into college; it makes sure they’re ready for the coursework. “It is irresponsible to send a student to a college where he or she is ill-equipped to compete,” Weissblum emphasizes.

SEO costs \$4,000–\$5,000 per student per year in high school, and \$2,000–\$2,500 per student in college, Weissblum says. “And the results are quite outstanding,” she adds. “The average college student at SEO maintains a 3.0 GPA. Ninety-four percent graduate from college within four years.” The high school class of 2009 gained an average of more than 150 points from the PSAT to the SAT—bringing their scores up to the level of students from families earning \$160,000 to \$200,000 annually. The average SEO student’s annual family income? \$33,000.

“Pre-college preparation is the best bang for the buck,” concludes Weissblum.

A continent away, another nonprofit provides students with a bridge and path to college graduation. College Track combines after-school tutoring with college advising, mentoring, and leadership development. The program has one goal: to make sure that every one of its students earns a college degree. In 1997, Laurene Powell Jobs and Carlos Watson founded College Track in East Palo Alto, California. As volunteers working with seniors in a local high school, Powell Jobs and Watson realized that too many motivated students had not taken—or even been offered—the classes required to get into college.

To ensure that kids in the program are ready for college by the time they graduate, College Track enrolls students before they start high school. At least three times a week for four years, students gather at one of College Track’s

four centers—there are currently three in the Bay area: East Palo Alto, Oakland, and San Francisco—for three hours of intensive instruction and mentoring support. Indeed, students spend so much time at College Track that they receive the equivalent of a full extra year of high school.

Since 80 percent of College Track students are the first in their families to go to college, the program includes comprehensive college prep activities beyond academics, including college tours and counseling, assistance navigating the application process, and help locating financial aid. To date, College Track students have been immensely successful at getting into college. “Everybody graduates from high school and continues with their education,” says Powell Jobs. What’s more, about 90 percent of them enroll in four-year institutions.

Once in college, students stay in touch with College Track’s college success director, who helps students connect with resources on their campuses. There are also peer groups at colleges where College Track alums have achieved critical mass. Alumni involvement is a core element of College Track. “Our most valuable assets are the students themselves, and we teach the older students how to support younger ones,” Powell Jobs explains.

The results speak for themselves: 70 percent of College Track graduates finish college in six years. Compare that to 24 percent of first-generation students nationwide. Of the College Track students who have already gone on to college, only 7 percent have left without earning a college degree. In 2009–10, the organization had expenses of about \$5,000 per student, which includes some small scholarships and grants provided to the students themselves.

Both SEO and College Track have attracted substantial philanthropic capital. SEO’s roster of supporters includes some of New York City’s leading philanthropists, foundations, and companies. College Track draws support from major Bay area philanthropies like the Koret Foundation, the Silicon Valley Community Foundation, and the Stuart Foundation.

SEO is looking to grow, says Weissblum. The cost to double the program’s size over the next four years: \$1.2 million. Growth—steady and deliberate, in order to

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continued

preserve quality—is also on the way for College Track. Its New Orleans center opened in 2008 and now serves 100 students. Overall, College Track currently serves 850 high school and college students. “We have a wait list of five cities where we’d like to open up centers,” Powell Jobs explains. “We want to keep our standards high, though, and are reluctant to grow through franchising or through dissemination of our curriculum and training.”

From Access to Success

A 43 percent drop-out rate is discouraging. Even more dispiriting are the numbers for the students most at risk of dropping out: men, African Americans, Hispanics, and first-generation college students. And if the numbers are dispiriting, imagine the toll on the students who don’t cross the finish line. They’ve fallen short of their country’s aspirations for them—and their aspirations for themselves.

The numbers are important, but not as much as the personal touch. Likewise, reforms in public policy and

institutional process at colleges are useful, but the best way to help students succeed is to meet them on an individual, personal level. That might mean peer relationships like those in the Student African American Brotherhood in Indiana, or making information about their academic progress easily accessible, like in Tallahassee. It might mean putting them on a pathway through college to a career that clicks, or building bridges from high school, like at SEO in New York or College Track in East Palo Alto. Big or small, comprehensive or tailored, national or regional—there are many models for philanthropic excellence in college success.

Philanthropists have turned their attention to college success, but they are still at the outset of their work. What they’ve learned thus far will help at-risk students achieve their goals, making the numbers less discouraging along the way.

Evan Sparks is managing editor of *Philanthropy*.

Tallahassee Democrat - March 14, 28, 31, April 3, 2010

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Shooting leaves questions - Former teacher baffled by young couple's tragedy

By David Sáez

DEMOCRAT STAFF WRITER

Web page devoted to shooting victim accessible to public

There is now a Web page devoted to Ann Grosmaire on the international Web site CaringBridge, a free Web service that allows family and friends to inform and support each other during the care and recovery of loved ones.

Grosmaire, 19, was shot in the face by Colin McBride, who admitted to police he shot his fiancée on Sunday with a shotgun after they'd been in an argument.

McBride, 19, remains in Leon County Jail on charges of attempted murder.

Those interested in learning more about Grosmaire's health status or wanting to submit words of support can access the Web page at <http://www.caringbridge.org/visit/anngrosmaire>.

10:19 a.m. - Shooting victim remains in critical condition

Ann Grosmaire, the 19-year-old woman shot Sunday, remains in critical condition at Tallahassee Memorial Hospital, said Barbara Gabrini, TMH director of public relations.

Original Story: Shooting leaves questions - Former teacher baffled by young couple's tragedy

Every time Rod Durham thinks of his former students Ann Grosmaire and Conor McBride, he has to think of something else.

What has transpired over the last 48 hours is too much for Durham to comprehend: Grosmaire in Tallahassee Memorial Hospital, a victim of a shooting; McBride in Leon County Jail, arrested in connection with Grosmaire's shooting.

"When they left me, they were a solid couple," Durham, a Leon High drama teacher, said. "It's just a shock more than anything."



Ann Grosmaire with her drama teacher Rod Durham after she won a drama award. (Special to the Democrat)

Late Monday Grosmaire was listed in critical condition at TMH, and McBride, who faces an attempted murder charge, had his bail set at \$750,000.

In an arrest warrant, a detective wrote how McBride walked into the Tallahassee Police Department at about 2:20 p.m. Sunday and confessed to shooting his fiancée in the head at his parent's home at 124 Mill Branch Road.

Authorities found Grosmaire in a bedroom of the home with a gunshot wound to the head and a Remington Express 870 pump shotgun on a bed.

McBride admitted to detectives that he shot Grosmaire in the head with a shotgun during an ongoing argument. He said he took the gun from his father's closet.

He wandered around the home for about 15 minutes, according to the arrest document, and then left, driving for about 30 minutes before turning himself in at TPD.

Grosmaire and McBride graduated from Leon High in 2009 and both were involved in theater at Leon. Durham taught Grosmaire all four years and McBride during his last two years at Leon.

Shooting....

continued

"There was nothing about Conor that was ever (violent), and Ann was just a gift," Durham said. "When you have a kid in class for two or four years, you get to know them well. This, for me, came out of nowhere."

Durham recalled Grosmaire growing from a behind-the-scenes contributor as a freshman and sophomore to Leon's Thespians of the Year as a senior, and McBride acted on the school's ensemble for state.

Both were full-time students at [Tallahassee Community College](#) working on associate degrees. Grosmaire was a sales associate at Best Beginnings, a boutique for mothers and mothers-to-be at Market Square.

"This is her first job," Best Beginnings owner Molly Shakar said. "I don't usually hire college girls or younger girls because they don't seem to fit. But she fit, and the customers love her."

Shakar is a friend of the Grosmaire family and says Grosmaire's parents are receiving support from their church and co-workers.

McBride worked as an imaging and filing clerk for the Division of Finance and Licensing at the Florida Office of Financial Regulation, the same agency where Grosmaire's father, Andy, serves as the chief of the Bureau of Finance Regulation.

"This is a senseless tragedy," said Flora Beal, communications director of the Florida Office of Financial Regulation. "Our hearts and prayers go out to the family."

Tallahassee Democrat - March 30, 2010

Pageant winners reach for the next level

By Beth Shankle Anderson

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

Florida State University was the setting for the Miss Tallahassee USA pageant, as 10 contestants took to the stage, vying for the titles of Miss Tallahassee USA and Teen USA.

Cassandra Register, 18, of Macclenny, Fla. was crowned Miss Tallahassee USA before a packed auditorium. She will advance to the state-televised Miss Florida USA pageant in July, where the winner will represent the state at the nationally televised Miss USA pageant.

Caitlin Harrison, 17, of Monticello was crowned Miss Tallahassee Teen USA and will compete in Miss Florida Teen USA in October, where the winner will advance to Miss Teen USA.

Held in February, the pageants were independently produced by Beth Anderson Productions, a Tallahassee-based production company. Contestants competed in three categories,



IAN ANDERSON/Special to the Chronicle Pageant winners and runners up are, left to right: 2nd RU (Miss) Jasmine Johnson; 1st RU (Miss) Ariel Wright; Winner (Miss) Cassandra Register; Winner (Teen) Caitlin Harrison; 1st RU (Teen) Cassi McFarland; and 2nd RU (Teen) Olivia Smith.

Pageant winners

continued

which included onstage interview question, swimsuit, and evening gown.

Greg Tish, host of the local television show "Live in Tallahassee", served as master of ceremonies. The distinguished judging panel consisted of Ron Sachs, Kim Rosier, Scott Holstein, Laura Jay, John Maceluch, Jr., and Eunice Cofie.

Miss Tallahassee USA Cassandra Register is a senior at Baker County High School where she is co-captain of the varsity cheerleading squad and captain of the girl's weightlifting team. She is also a Wellness Advisor at Anytime Fitness. She will be attending Florida State University this fall.

Currently a senior, Miss Tallahassee Teen USA Caitlin Harrison is dually enrolled at Florida State University School and [Tallahassee Community College](#), where she is an honor roll student and President's Award recipient. She has volunteered over 200 hours with the Monticello Opera House.

Ariel Wright and Jasmine Johnson were first and second runners up, respectively, to Miss Tallahassee USA. Olivia Smith was second runner up and Cassi McFarland was first runner up to Miss Tallahassee Teen USA.

For more information, visit www.misstallahasseeusa.com.

Tallahassee Democrat - April 1, 2010

Will Jenkins, ex-Tuskegee Airman, dies

By Gerald Ensley

DEMOCRAT SENIOR WRITER

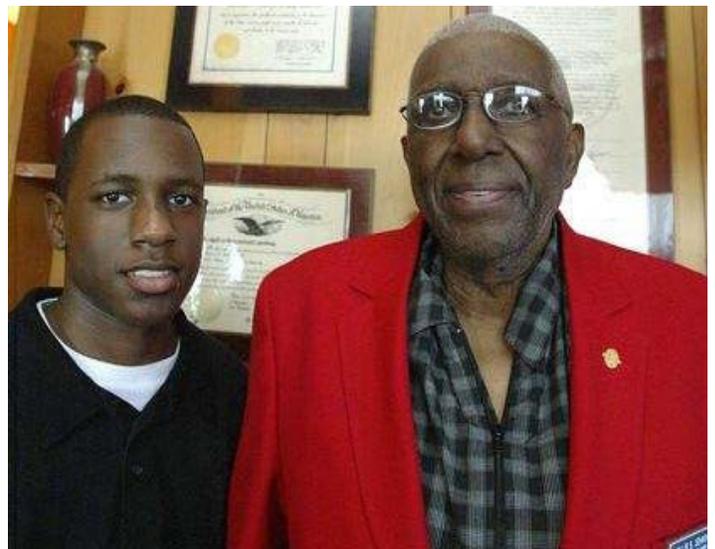
Retired Florida A&M administrator Will Jenkins, who attended the inauguration of Barack Obama as one of the surviving members of the Tuskegee Airmen, died Tuesday afternoon.

Jenkins, 85, had been hospitalized at Tallahassee Memorial Hospital since February.

A native of Petersburg, Va., Jenkins was a parachute rigger for the Tuskegee Airmen, the all-black contingent of 1,000 pilots and 15,000 ground crew who trained for World War II in Tuskegee, Ala. After the war, he earned a degree from Virginia State and returned to the Army as an officer for another 20 years, retiring as a lieutenant colonel.

Jenkins taught in the ROTC program at FAMU from 1959 to 1963. He returned to FAMU as the dean for university development from 1968 to 1986.

In that role, Jenkins helped establish the FAMU



Will Jenkins served in World War II as a member of the Tuskegee Airmen. Jenkins died Tuesday at age 85. (AMANDA NALLEY/Democrat)

Foundation, the Florida Classic football game with rival Bethune-Cookman and the school's relationship with dozens of corporations that provide internships, jobs and funding to FAMU business students.

"He was just a tremendous leader," said Walter Smith, the

Will Jenkins....

continued

FAMU president from 1977 to 1985. "As a career military officer, he had to develop the capacity to listen, learn and give direction and he could do all three things very well. He was not afraid to work."

After retiring from FAMU, Jenkins operated a small engine repair company in Gadsden County for 17 years. He served on the boards of [Tallahassee Community College](#), Tallahassee Memorial Hospital and the Tallahassee Chamber of Commerce.

"Will was an exceptionally friendly person, who believed in giving his all in trying to build his community," said Leedell Neyland, retired FAMU historian who lived across the street from Jenkins on Galimore Drive for many years. "He was a man of many ideas and whatever he was doing,

he followed through."

As a Tuskegee Airman, Jenkins received a Congressional Gold Medal in 2007. He was one of 300 surviving airmen invited to Obama's inauguration, which he attended with his grandson, Marquis Lucas, a junior at Florida High.

Jenkins' wife of 55 years, Thelma, died in 2003.

The funeral is Monday at noon at Bethel Missionary Baptist Church.

"Will was a people person who had very high standards," said retired Army Lt. Col. Marcellas Durham, a longtime friend. "It's a big loss."

Wakulla News - April 1, 2010

Workshop series presented by chamber Brown Bag Lunch Series

The Wakulla County Chamber of Commerce is excited to announce the "Brown Bag Lunch Series," a variety of workshops designed to assist area businesses. Through partnerships with the Jim Moran Institute, [Tallahassee Community College](#) and the FAMU Small Business Development Center, each workshop will provide relevant and useful tools to assist businesses in growing and prospering in today's economy.

The Creating Leaders Series, presented by the Jim Moran Institute is designed for business leaders and their leadership team. The interactive workshops address essential leadership, management and business skills. The Creating Leaders Series will begin April 15th with Leadership Essentials. Topics to be discussed include the role of a leader, building credibility as a leader and best practices of effective leaders. The second workshop in the series, Time Management being held on May 13th, will include planning and analyzing your time, assessing your time management skills, working more effectively and efficiently and dealing with interruptions. The last workshop, Management through Coaching and

Mentoring held on June 3rd, will focus on the benefits of coaching and mentoring to the business and the individual.

"The mission of The Jim Moran Institute (JMI) for Global Entrepreneurship in the College of Business at Florida State University is to nurture the growth and development of entrepreneurship in the global marketplace," said Barbara Lay, Associate Director of Outreach.

[Tallahassee Community College](#), through the Wakulla Center, will be offering the Essential Business Tools Series. The series is comprised of four workshops: Promoting Your Business through Advertising and Publicity, April 21st; Ethics in the Workplace, May 19th; Professional Business Writing, June 16th; and Improving Employee Work Habits, July 21st. Each workshop will provide valuable tools such as maximizing your marketing efforts, establishing ethics, codes of conduct and communicating effectively and efficiently.

Workshop series....

continued

"TCC is pleased to work with the Chamber to bring more workforce training opportunities to Wakulla County," said John Chapin, Vice President for Workforce Development.

Anyone interested in starting a business and/or developing a business plan will want to take advantage of the workshops being provided by the FAMU Small Business Development Center. These workshops assist businesses in understanding the path one must take when requesting funding for their business as well as creating a business plan for success. The Small Business Financing Workshop is being held on June 8th with Developing a Business Plan on July 13th.

"The SBDC at FAMU is committed to continuing to support small business creation and expansion in Wakulla," said Robert Nixon, Executive Director. "We are excited by the prospect of working with the chamber and other stakeholders to promote quality job creation, increased capital investment and regional commerce by providing relevant training and technical assistance."

Each workshop will begin at 11:30 a.m. and will range from one (1) to two (2) hours. The workshops are free for Chamber members, however, registration is required. For non-Chamber members interested in attending the workshops, individual workshops are available for \$10, or purchase each individual series for \$25. For those interested in taking advantage of the entire Brown Bag Lunch Series, the Chamber is offering a buy two get one free! Please contact the Chamber Office at (850) 926-1848 to learn about the packaging programs available and to register today.

Tallahassee Democrat - April 1, 2010

FSU med student defies odds: Formerly homeless Jimmy Moss now thriving

By Doug Blackburn

DEMOCRAT SENIOR WRITER

Sometimes the apple falls far from the tree.

Jimmy Moss landed in an entirely different orchard.

His story seems more the stuff of Hollywood than real life, yet Moss is as real as can be.

Built like an NFL linebacker and blessed with an engaging personality, Moss is six weeks from earning his medical degree at Florida State University. In June he will begin a three-year residency in internal medicine at the esteemed Mayo Clinic in Jacksonville.

Dr. Jimmy Moss.

Local physicians describe him as the best of the best, "a star."

No one — not even Moss — could have possibly imagined this two decades ago.

Twenty years ago Moss and his grandmother, Ella Jackson, were in survival mode. Moss, the oldest of three children



Jimmy Moss is a fourth-year, soon to graduate College of Medicine student at FSU. Once homeless, he is now considered a "star" by local physicians. (Mike Ewen/Democrat)

FSU med student defies odds....

continued

and about to turn 10, was living one day at a time. His father was in and out of jail; his mother was battling diabetes and unable to work.

They shuttled from one Broward County public housing complex to another, trying to hide their tracks from Moss' father. Jackson's janitorial jobs provided what little money they had.

In 1992, when Moss was 12, they moved to New Jersey, where Jackson figured her 17 brothers and sisters would be able to help out.

Instead, Moss and his siblings found themselves in a homeless shelter.

"It didn't get better," Moss said. "It just got different. It got real bad. You wear out your welcome going from one relative to another."

He remembers living in the basement of a house with no electricity. He was able to run an extension cord from the house next door so they could use a hot plate to prepare meals.

Moss tries to tally how many addresses he and his brother and sister claimed between first grade and high school. He loses count at 21.

At age 13, Moss got a job at a tire factory and became the family bread winner.

Saved by school

School was his salvation, his safe place. Always.

For reasons that defy explanation, Moss excelled in the classroom even though his life away from school was a daily struggle.

"It always came pretty easy to me and I took pride in knowing I could do something. School was a face saver because I didn't have to be in the classes with people who would tease me," he said. "I was never picked on for being smart.

"I went to a lot of schools. It actually helped me," Moss added. "I was able to get into new situations and adapt. I learned all the 'poor kid' jokes and started telling them on myself."

College was a different story.

He started out at Temple University in Philadelphia — he knew about it only because it's Bill Cosby's alma mater — on a partial scholarship. He realized midway through the first semester he didn't have enough money to make it work.

"I was intimidated," he acknowledged. "I had kids in my classes driving a Lexus and I didn't have a textbook."

Moss developed a long-distance relationship with a young woman in Florida who was a student at Florida A&M. They eloped and he found himself in Tallahassee.

The marriage did not last, but Moss found everything he was looking for in Tallahassee, starting with [Tallahassee Community College](#). He also found role models through different outreach programs he signed up for at TCC and FSU, where he majored in biology.

"I never saw a black physician until I got to Tallahassee," he said. "I didn't know it was even an option."

"I thought to be a doctor you had to come from a family with a lot of money."

Moss was inspired and hungry to learn. He was accepted into FSU's College of Medicine. He volunteered at the Bond Clinic and spent time shadowing Dr. A.J. Brickler at North Florida Women's Care.

Brickler was amazed when Moss eventually shared his personal story.

"His background would have swallowed a whole lot of people up and made them dysfunctional," Brickler said. "He was able to keep his eyes on the prize. He is one of those people who you know is going places."

His comments are echoed by Dr. Terry Allen at John D. Archbold Memorial Hospital in Thomasville, Ga., where Moss spent most of his third and fourth years in medical school.

"Every day Jimmy is bigger, stronger, faster. He's going to be a star some day," Allen said. "I see him 10 years from now the head of a department somewhere.

"He's everything we look for in a med student," Allen added. "He's super bright. He's someone who really wants to learn and goes out of his way to do it."

FSU med student defies odds....

continued

He also believes in sharing and inspiring. Moss frequently gives talks at local Boys & Girls clubs, at churches.

"Any time there's a window to talk to minority youth, I try to take advantage of it," he said. "There's always a way out."

While Moss has blossomed — he's also re-married — his siblings have struggled. His younger brother, like his father, has been in and out of jail. His younger sister, a mother of four, had her first child at 16. Moss and his mother are trying to re-establish a relationship.

Moss is at a loss to explain how he has thrived. He shakes his cleanly shaven head back and forth, not sure what the answer is.

"Somebody had to be looking for me," he said. "It wasn't just luck and hard work. I can't explain it — I really can't."

WCTV - April 1, 2010

TCC Holds Healthcare Workforce Development Needs Forum

The forum included leaders from 20 healthcare organizations.

Reporter: Press Release

EMAIL ADDRESS: NEWS@WCTV.TV

News Release from [Tallahassee Community College](#):

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. –

On Monday, March 28, [Tallahassee Community College](#) conducted a forum with healthcare and home healthcare leaders on the region's workforce development needs. The forum included leaders from 20 healthcare organizations including:

Apalachee Center Inc.

Capital Health Plan, Inc.

Capital Regional Medical Center

Dermatology Associates of Tallahassee

Desloge Home Oxygen & Medical Equipment

Hopewell Nursing & Living Assistance

Leon County EMS

Mitchell & Co.

North Florida Medical Centers

North Florida Women's Care

Robert P. Whittier, M.D., P.A.

Select Specialty Hospital

Southeastern Community Blood Center

Southeastern Surgical Group

Tallahassee Developmental Center

Tallahassee Ear, Nose & Throat

Tallahassee Memorial Health Care

Tallahassee Neurological Clinic

Tallahassee Orthopedic Clinic

Vascular Surgery Associates

The forum addressed such issues as the current and projected economic status of the region, current and future business challenges, and specific industry workforce needs. Discussions also covered resources available to improve workers' skills and development and ways in which TCC and healthcare providers can develop even more meaningful partnerships to effectively address the challenges they see ahead. Studies across the country consistently find that the lack of a skilled workforce is a major challenge in virtually every industry.

Workforce Development Needs Forum....

continued

"TCC's commitment to the community and healthcare providers was substantiated through the Health Care Forum," said Polly White, Senior Vice President with Capital Health Plan. "The College's effort to understand the current and prospective needs of the community to meet the demand of the future is commendable. As the fifth-ranked HMO in the nation, Capital Health Plan recognizes that all contribute to the success of the community."

TCC Vice President for Institutional Advancement Robin Johnston added, "We are excited about the opportunities to partner with the healthcare industry and with individual healthcare organizations to develop effective programs designed to improve the overall quality of the labor pool, as well as provide educational and training opportunities for healthcare industry employees. Our common efforts will help students, individuals in the labor pool and incumbent workers understand and better prepare for the wonderful job and career opportunities offered by the healthcare organizations throughout our region".

A final report from the forum will be available within one month, and may be requested from the TCC Foundation.

Tallahassee Examiner - April 6, 2010

Keep it Secret, Keep it Safe. 'The Hobbit' Opens This Week at TheatreTCC!

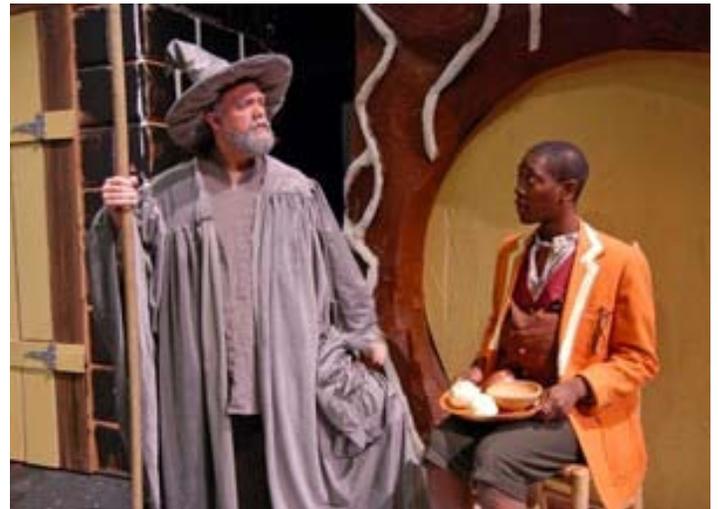
By Caroline Sturtz

TALLAHASSEE THEATER EXAMINER

Middle-earth will be coming to Tallahassee this week as TheatreTCC presents *The Hobbit*. J.R.R Tolkien's epic tale of adventure will be brought to life by TCC's incredible theatrical production team. Audience members will join Bilbo, Gandalf, and the Dwarves on their incredible quest through Middle-earth. They will encounter trolls, elves, and dragons, and ultimately learn that the heart of a hero can lie in the most unlikely of creatures.

Heading up this production is M. Derek Nieves, who directed last year's hilarious TheatreTCC production of *Greater Tuna*. Nieves has been a fan of *The Hobbit* since he was a child. "I'll never forget the first time my father read me the story of Bilbo and the Ring. It was my first introduction to the world of fantasy literature," Nieves said. "He read each character with a different voice, and I delighted in the antics of the characters and listened raptly while this amazing journey unfolded."

Nieves is eager to share this classic work with a new audience, and urges families to come out and enjoy



Josh Bradt as Gandalf and Adwin Brown as Bilbo in TheatreTCC's Production of 'The Hobbit'

The Hobbit together. "I am proud to introduce another generation of youngsters and adults alike to the world of Middle-earth", said Nieves. "I hope that children of all ages are able to laugh and learn from the exploits of a once timid Hobbit who grows from a dormant homebody into a genuine hero."

The Hobbit truly promises to be a treat for the eyes, ears, and most of all, heart.

The *Hobbit* Stars:

Bilbo - Adwin Brown

'The Hobbit' Opens This Week....

continued

Gandalf - Josh Bradt

Gollum/Grocery Boy - Luis Mora

Thorin - Scott Mock

Dwalin/Smaug - Michael Simeon

Balin - Louise Ritchie

Bombur - Eric Wise

Kili - Erin Stack

Fili - Crystal Bailey

Bifur/Essie - Kaitlyn Brannon

Bofur - Ashley Jonsson

Dori - Mike Mock

Nori - Melanie Potter

Ori - Kiirah Smith

Gloin - Erin Fiedler

Oin - Reda Jawhari

Bert/Great Goblin/Elf - Kafui Ablordeppey

Tom/Elven Queen/Goblin - Galen Wesson

Elf/goblin - Stacey Russell

Elf/goblin - Angel Williams

What: TheatreTCC Presents The Hobbit

When: April 8th-10th and 15th-17th at 8pm each evening

Where: Turner Auditorium at [Tallahassee Community College](#), 444 Appleyard Drive, Tallahassee, Florida 32304.

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

Tallahassee Democrat - April 6, 2010

Paying it Forward: Students Learn Vital Life Lesson

It's really a modern day story of paying it forward.

Reporter: Heather Biance

EMAIL ADDRESS: HEATHER.BIANCE@WCTV.TV

We all know someone who's laced up their boots, buttoned their fatigues and headed overseas to fight for our freedom. But often times, we get so wrapped up in our lives, we don't take the time to give back to these men and women. One TCC professor wants to change that.

It's really a modern day story of paying it forward.

It started with one teacher and her vision and it's

become a movement that can be felt all over [Tallahassee Community College's](#) campus.

Although TCC student Garrett Sullivan has traded in his boots for flip-flops these days, he remembers his three tours overseas like they were yesterday.

He's just one of dozens of students in Dr. Melissa Soldani's history class who is learning first hand what it's like to give like they've never done before.

Paying it Forward....

continued

"A care package from home is like receiving gold or a big lump sum of money. You get it, you're so happy because you know people care," says Garrett Sullivan, a Corporal in the United States Army who has served 3 Tours to Afghanistan and Iraq.

Soldani and her students have been packing more than 100 boxes since last spring, mailing them to far distant lands.

They have the choice of sending a letter and care package to a mystery hero at Camp Alamo in Afghanistan OR veterans who are fighting a different battle, a battle for their health at the VA hospital in Lake City, Florida.

"We've got a community uprising. Yeah, it's bigger than I could have ever imagined, but I'm not surprised. When you ask for generosity, its nature is to grow," says TCC Professor of History Melissa Soldani, Ph.D.

Although it's hard to imagine the healing power of a candy bar, the meaning behind it is much deeper.

The connection between the students and soldiers put into perspective the sacrifices they make on a daily basis.

"It keeps reminding them that people are back here and a place they are going to be coming to and gives them a light at the end of the tunnel," says Greg Davis, who served 21 year in the Marine Corps.

As Soldani teaches her students about our country's past, perhaps the biggest lesson they'll learn won't be found in their textbook.

So I had to ask some of the veterans what the hot commodities are overseas. They say some big favorites are unscented baby wipes for the shower on the go, spray cheese, candy, magazines and I promise I'm not making this up: a letter or something else sprayed with perfume.

Soldani says she can't take all the credit for the idea, but was inspired by another TCC professor who incorporated service projects into their classroom.

From there, the rest is history.

Tallahassee Examiner - April 7, 2010

Tallahassee Community College Career Center Expo and fashion show

By Pamela Thompson

TALLAHASSEE CAREERS EXAMINER

Tallahassee Community College's Career Center will host the first-ever Career Expo Fashion Show from noon to 2 p.m., Tuesday, April 13 in the Student Union Ballroom.

The Career Center's Spring Expo is the following day, April 14, from 9am to 2pm in the Student Union Ballroom and the fashion show, titled a "Red Carpet Affair," will provide TCC students with tips on how to dress for the expo, as well as future job interviews.

It is important for students to know that in interviews, first impressions are lasting ones so your dress attire must be appropriate for whatever career you are choosing to pursue. Sure, you might believe that your appearance is superficial and it's your skills that should land you a job. But remember that you've never met the persons who will be interviewing you. They have your resume and background in front of them, but your grooming and the appropriateness of your clothes are the first direct observations they're going to have about you. If

Career Center Expo and fashion show....

continued

you fail the first test, you'll have a hard time regaining momentum.

If you miss the fashion show, here are a few pointers of how to dress for an interview:

First and foremost, no matter what you wear, your clothes should be neat and clean.

Dress for the job you want. If you aspire to be a manager, dress like managers in your company do.

Women should wear a classic suit or a simple dress with a jacket; black, navy blue, dark green, dark red, burgundy, and gray are all good color choices.

Men should wear a neutral or dark (blue, black, or gray are

best) suit or sport jacket with color-coordinated trousers. Wear a tie, even if you will never wear one again after you get the job. Wear calf-length dress socks that match the suit. Always wear a belt if your pants have belt holes.

Your nails should be trimmed and clean

No perfume. The interviewers may have allergies

Keep jewelry to a minimum

For more information about the Career Fashion show or the Career Expo, visit [Tallahassee Community College's](http://www.tcc.fl.edu) website at www.tcc.fl.edu. Those in attendance will have a chance to win one of four \$50 Visa gift cards.

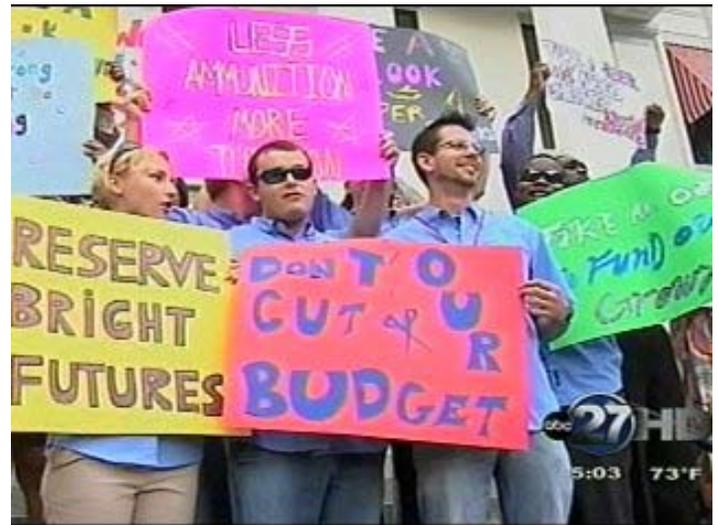
WTXL - April 8, 2010

College students protest education cuts at capitol

We've heard a lot about k through 12 education so far this legislative session. Today, another voice was loud and clear, those of higher education students. ABC 27's Jerry Hume tells us how decisions at the capitol could have a big impact at community colleges and universities across the state.

On the steps of the old capitol, three hundred student government leaders from Florida community and state colleges wanted to be heard by the lawmakers. Many students, like those at [Tallahassee Community College](http://www.tcc.fl.edu), want the legislature to leave the Bright Futures Scholarship Program alone and not raise acceptance standards as proposed right now in the senate.

"I think it's something like 80 percent of our campus is on Financial Aid, so the cost of text books and the proposed cuts to bright futures would really affect our students," said Ben Friedman, student body president TCC.



Community colleges are taking up several issues with lawmakers today. Chief among them is that with more students going to their schools, they want more funding from Tallahassee. But under proposed legislation they could see even less money for their colleges. That could mean higher tuition.

The budget also concerns Florida A&M students, who

College students protest

continued

marched to the capitol today. Not only are they concerned about Bright Futures, but they also want funding for the FAMU dental school. And they want the legislature to support the new Florida initiative, which would add 1.75 billion dollars more in support for higher education over the next five years.

So far lawmakers have shown little interest in funding the initiative. But they hope that by lobbying lawmakers, they can make a difference for themselves and their schools. FAMU also spoke out against a bill that would create a university tier system. It would make certain universities in the state, like the University of Florida a flag ship university.

Tallahassee Democrat - April 12, 2010

TCC seeks federal money

By Raju Chebium

GANNETT WASHINGTON BUREAU

WASHINGTON — Community colleges say the \$2 million they're getting through a new federal program marks an unprecedented investment in the schools, which historically haven't received as much money from the federal government as four-year colleges.

[Tallahassee Community College](#) is among institutions planning to compete for the money. John Chapin, the school's vice president of workforce development, said TCC will be aggressive in going after it.

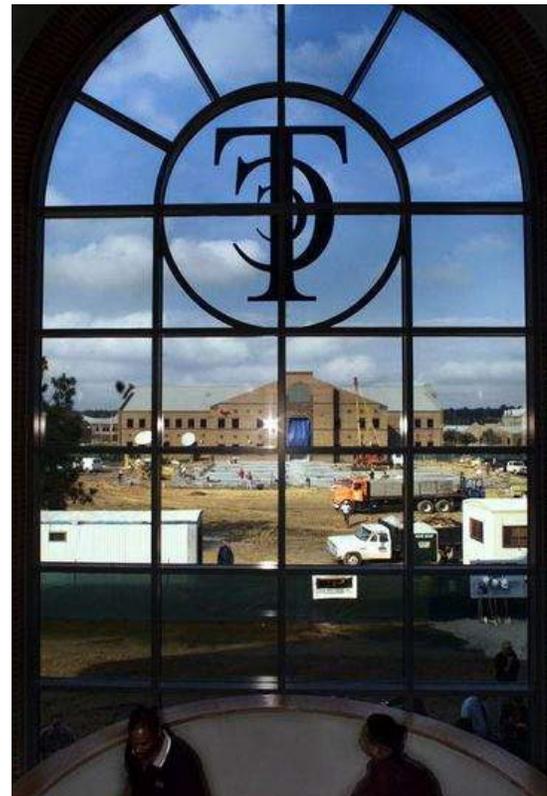
"Whenever we offer them, the classes fill," he said. "There's a steady stream of demand ... We are trying to grow more and more."

The money will be used to expand career-training programs across the country for people who lost jobs in the recession and to create new programs, officials say.

"This \$2 billion investment in a single piece of legislation is in fact the largest investment made at any one time for community colleges," said David Baime, a vice president at the American Association of Community Colleges.

The grant money, to be distributed over the next five years, is part of a larger package of health care reforms and changes to student financial aid programs that President Barack Obama signed into law in late March.

Obama has repeatedly highlighted the role the nation's 1,200 community colleges play in preparing displaced workers for new jobs. The programs most likely to win funding are those that team colleges with



employers to offer custom training.

"We're really trying to take a comprehensive look at how we integrate the training programs we have on the books now and what resources community colleges can bring," Democratic Rep. George Miller of California, chairman of the House Education and Labor Committee, told reporters recently.

College officials say the grants will help them meet rising demand for training in fields such as nursing, information

TCC seeks federal money....

continued

technology, energy efficiency and construction.

Since early 2008, laid-off workers have been enrolling in droves in programs that can last a few days or a few years, community college officials say. These programs often don't offer academic credit, which means younger students seeking to transfer to four-year institutions typically don't enroll in them.

At TCC, revenue generated by such non-credit training has tripled since just before the recession, Chapin said.

Like other community colleges, TCC offers classes on campuses or at employees' work sites.

"We are working to be as nimble as we can," Chapin said.

Additional Facts

Impact of reforms

A package of student aid reforms President Barack Obama signed into law March 30 will:

Increase Pell Grant spending by \$710 million for low-income New Jersey students over the next decade.

Increase the maximum yearly Pell Grant amount to \$5,550 this year and \$5,975 by 2017.

Provide nearly \$11 million over the next five years to help more New Jersey students attend and complete college.

Cap monthly college loan repayments at 10 percent of a borrower's income.

Switch to a plan in which the government handles all federally subsidized student loans directly, eliminating banks and other middlemen. The plan will allow Sallie Mae and other lenders to continue servicing loans but not to originate them, saving an estimated \$61 billion over the next decade.

Source: House Education and Labor Committee

Tallahassee Democrat - April 12, 2010

TCC, DOC eye inmate facility

By Angeline J. Taylor

DEMOCRAT STAFF WRITER

A new partnership between the Department of Corrections and [Tallahassee Community College](#) could mean additional jobs for Gadsden County residents and training for inmates, officials say.

DOC and TCC have teamed up to establish an inmate facility at the Havana Florida Public Safety Institute — which sits on the college's property.

Plans for the \$19.9 million facility have not been finalized. However, the Department of Corrections has dedicated at least \$50 million to construct similar "re-entry" facilities statewide.

The Havana facility is expected to house nearly 600 inmates who are within 12-18 months of release. They will live in the Panhandle to complete their sentences.

"We are excited because it will bring good jobs to Gadsden County — 150-200 employed at the facility," TCC Vice President Jim Murdaugh, said. "It also provides a realistic venue for training corrections officers."

Eugene Lamb, TCC trustee and Gadsden County commissioner, said college officials presented information regarding the facility at the commissioners' meeting.

"It was received very well," Lamb said. "This is a blessing for (inmates) because they have something to look forward to after their sentence is complete."

Return to [Tallahassee.com](#) for more on this report.

Leaders looking for ways to create green jobs

Local leaders are busy looking for ways to go green and create jobs for residents. Representative Alan Williams and Tallahassee Community College president Bill Law hosted the 2010 big bend green jobs summit.

Guests included local and state leaders in the energy, business, education and employment sectors. They discussed ways to boost job creation in the big bend, by promoting careers in the growing "green" sector.

Panelists say these new "green" jobs will create solar and alternative energy, smart grids, and biomass plants.

Tallahassee Democrat - April 13, 2010

Summit focuses on preparing Big Bend for green economy

By Angeline J. Taylor
DEMOCRAT STAFF WRITER

When the nation's economy tanked, Peter Rosen's future looked grim.

Rosen, who had worked in construction, real estate and banking, decided he needed a new career. He launched a company keeping true to his roots in construction that also focused on a national initiative — going "green."

That's how ProSolar Systems was formed, Rosen said during Monday's Big Bend Green Jobs Summit at the Tallahassee Community College Capitol Center. Rosen's company, however, was just one example.

Hosts TCC President Bill Law and state Rep. Alan Williams, D-Tallahassee, brought together local, state and federal policymakers to start a dialogue on preparing the Big Bend for a "green" economy, an economy dedicated to preserving or restoring environmental quality.

Representatives from Workforce Plus, Tallahassee Economic Development Council, Florida Power & Light Company, TCC, Indian River State College and former and current state lawmakers attended the half-day summit.

"I suspect this is the first of a lot of similar kinds of events," Law said. "Our goal in Tallahassee is to make the whole greater than the sum of the parts."

"We've got a lot of the parts in place. If we can get them all focused on common goals, I think we can be significant players."

Said Williams, "Our economy is suffering. We have record unemployment. This begins the discussion to help our economy rebound but also helps our citizens retool themselves."

Rosen's company offers work to out-of-work employees — much like he was.

"The pool of talent that I draw from is former construction industry people, project managers, carpenters and electricians. They know construction practices," he said.

That's the kind of work necessary to install solar panels. But Williams and Law hope Big Bend policymakers will turn to companies like Rosen's and to produce outcomes such as those being completed by Florida Power & Light. It produced 400 jobs through its DeSoto County Next Generation Solar Energy Center, which was commended by President Barack Obama.

"(We're) creating a lot of wonderful jobs," Eric Silagy, FPL's vice president of development, said. "We're taking people off of state unemployment."

Silagy said regions like the Big Bend need to be competitive in enticing green companies to establish headquarters in their areas.

"It's not a question of if or even when. It's a question of where?" Silagy said, referring to industries opening centers of operation in Florida. "The decisions we make in this state today are really for the next generation. Florida

preparing Big Bend for green economy....

continued

is open for business and we want you to come to our state.”

Rebecca Rust, labor market statistics director with the Agency for Workforce Innovation, said AWI won a federal grant worth \$1.25 million to count the number of green jobs.

“No one really knows how many green jobs we have,” Rust said. “The most difficult part about it is defining what is a green job.”

St.Petersburg Times - April 13, 2010

New president picked for SPC

By Michael Van Sickler

TIMES STAFF WRITER

ST. PETERSBURG — The post-Carl Kuttler era began Tuesday when the St. Petersburg College board of trustees chose William D. Law Jr. as the school's next president.

The selection of Law, the 61-year-old president of [Tallahassee Community College](#), was touted as a safe choice in a climate of tightening financial times that could propel the school past months of negative publicity that followed Kuttler's surprise resignation last year.

“(Law) is tried and true,” said trustee W. Richard Johnston. “He's geared in his career to handle an institution like this.”

But for some, including members of the school's faculty, the choice hardly ushered in a fresh break from the past.

“I'm very pleased, but I think people will be very divided on this,” said Earl Fratus, the faculty senate president.

“I think the faculty were so excited to have the other candidate so focused on the faculty and the classroom, which we didn't have under the previous administration.”

That other candidate was Thomas Keegan, president of Peninsula College in Port Angeles, Wash. Keegan and Law were the clear favorites all along. They were the top two vote getters when a list of eight semifinalists was culled in early February. They both nabbed 11 votes, nearly double the next closest candidate.

By Tuesday's trustees meeting, teachers at the college had split between Law and Keegan, Fratus said.

While Law impressed with his longtime experience, especially his knowledge of Tallahassee that could help the school get state aid, he had some possible drawbacks, Fratus said.

He worked under Kuttler from 1981 to 1989 as the college's vice president of institutional and program planning, an association that “some say is a good thing, and some say is a bad thing,” Fratus said. Law also is known as a powerful leader with a temper, a management style that could remind some of Kuttler.

Still, Fratus said, Law also has a reputation for apologizing later, suggesting a conciliatory approach for which Kuttler wasn't known.

Keegan, on the other hand, was considered more of an outsider.

“He's a fresh face,” said Bob Stubblefield, the former director of SPC's bookstores. “The only problem I see is that he hasn't dealt with the Legislature and Law has.”

Keegan's reputation was that of being a collaborator with faculty, stressing the importance of spending money directly or indirectly on classroom instruction. Trustees Deveron Gibbons and Kenneth Burke voiced early support for Keegan, saying the college needed innovation and better relations with faculty more than experience at this point.

New president picked for SPC....

continued

But trustees Johnston, Evelyn Bilirakis and Terrence Brett preferred Law's experience. Later, Gibbons and Burke voted with them to show consensus for Law.

"I think sometimes the timing is good to have a safe candidate," Brett said. "The economic climate doesn't want me to be as innovative."

Two other finalists, Paula Marie Gastenveld, an administrator from the Kentucky Community and Technical College System, and B. Kaye Walter, an administrator from Orlando's Valencia Community College, were eliminated earlier in Tuesday's meeting.

Kuttler, who began as president in 1978, did not attend the meeting. During his leadership, the school grew to nine learning sites throughout Pinellas County with more than 65,000 students enrolled annually.

As school officials embarked on a search, Kuttler stirred controversy by requesting a severance package of \$684,000 that included a \$185,788 reimbursement for an unused sabbatical. The board of trustees rejected that request, but the subsequent discussion lasted months,

distracting from the search. Trustees ultimately opted to pay Kuttler \$339,501.

Kuttler on Tuesday said there will be several challenges facing his successor, including making sure the college's four-year degrees don't need the approval of the state's board of education and filling budget gaps left by fewer federal earmarks.

"In my 31 years as president, I had almost no layoffs for financial reasons," Kuttler said. "That could change."

Reached after the meeting by phone, Law said he wanted to start by June. He makes \$295,000 as president of [Tallahassee Community College](#), but negotiations have yet to begin on what he'll earn in St. Petersburg.

"I'm very proud and honored to have been selected," Law said. "I'm ready to roll up my sleeves and get to work."

Michael Van Sickler can be reached at (727) 893-8037.

Tallahassee Democrat - April 14, 2010

TCC president headed to St. Petersburg

By Angeline J. Taylor

DEMOCRAT STAFF WRITER

An hourlong meeting Tuesday concluded the seven-month hunt for St. Petersburg College's new president and started talk of a new search here in Tallahassee. Trustees at the Pinellas County institution unanimously approved [Tallahassee Community College](#) President Bill Law as their new leader.

Law, 61, was up against three other candidates for the job. But when it came down to making a decision, he and Thomas Keegan, president of Peninsula College in Port Angeles, Wash., were favorites.

"I think the work that we're doing at [Tallahassee Community College](#) was gaining some interest. I always felt that I was a strong candidate. But, you have to wait till the end," Law said.

Law called Keegan, "a first-rate educator." Law believed his additional experience over Keegan plus his hands-on work in Florida helped him get the job. Chairman of SPC's trustee committee, Terrence Brett, notified Law after the decision.

"We only spoke for a few minutes," Law said. "I can't imagine that it won't work out. It was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to take the next step on the professional ladder."

Willis Holcombe, chancellor of the Florida State College System, said, "Dr. Law is a first-rate college president and he has done a great job here at TCC. His experiences here with the Legislature, in working with other presidents and in working with us in the division — all those things will

TCC president headed to St. Petersburg....

continued

give Dr. Law the opportunity to be successful.”

TCC trustee chairwoman Karen Moore said the board will meet on April 26th to discuss its next steps, including putting together a selection committee.

“The impact president Law has had on the college, community and really the regional level has been outstanding,” Moore said. “(He) has taken the college truly to the next level.”

Law currently earns \$295,264 at TCC where enrollment this spring is 13,791 students. It offers 69 associate in arts, associate in science and associate in applied science degrees plus certificate programs. St. Petersburg College serves nearly 20,000 students per semester while offering certification programs, associate in arts and baccalaureate degrees.

WCTV - April 14, 2010

TCC's Bill Law Named President at St. Petersburg College

Reporter: Press Release

April 13, 2010

This afternoon, the Board of Trustees of St. Petersburg College, announced my selection as the next president of that fine institution. As a result, the rewarding and fulfilling experience as president of [Tallahassee Community College](#) will come to an end.

Please allow me to express my deep gratitude for the patient support shown to me during the lengthy selection process over the last few months. I knew the process would create uncertainties and some anxieties. To the credit of faculty, staff, and Board of Trustees those sentiments have not deterred our commitment to our students and our community.

I take pride in the fact that every employee of the college has grown in their service to our students over the past eight years. Faculty have changed and strengthened their teaching strategies. Counselors and advisors have greatly enhanced the ability of students to develop and implement individualized learning plans. Support staff have found new ways to improve the delivery of services to students, even in the face of greatly reduced funding. Without a doubt, we have added to our heritage of

excellence and have moved to new heights.

The Trustees of the College deserve recognition for their steadfast guidance and support in the community-centered vision for TCC. They have brought their expertise and wisdom to our day-to-day efforts. In particular, the Board has been instrumental in the crafting of the college's financial plan that has served our students so well in these most difficult times.

[Tallahassee Community College](#) is a valuable asset for our community. I am fortunate to have had the privilege of leading this wonderful institution. For the many expressions of support and encouragement I have received in that role, I want to express my sincere gratitude. For the many kindnesses shown to my family, we will always remain indebted to the community.

Thank you.

Bill Law

Law named SPC president

By BOB McCLURE

LARGO – A lengthy selection process came to a close April 13 when members of the St. Petersburg College Board of Trustees voted unanimously to select William D. Law as the school's next president.

Law, 61, is the current president of [Tallahassee Community College](#) and replaces former SPC president Carl Kuttler who retired Dec. 31.

He is expected to begin his new duties once a contract is negotiated.

Those talks will begin next week.

Board members Evelyn Billirakis, Terrence Brett, Ken Burke, Deveron Gibbons and Richard Johnston chose Law over Thomas Keegan, president of Peninsula College in Port Angeles, Wash.

An earlier vote unanimously eliminated the other two finalists – Paula Gastenveld, assistant to the chancellor for workforce development for the Kentucky Community and Technical College System, Versailles, Ky.; and Kaye Walter, executive vice president and chief learning officer at Valencia Community College, Orlando.

"I have been the president of three different community colleges, each one increasingly more complex and sophisticated," Law said in his application for the SPC presidency. "The opportunity to advance to the 'top rung' on the professional ladder at an institution as complex and multi-dimensional as SPC is exciting and enticing."

Law, who earlier in his career served as vice president for instructional and program planning at St. Petersburg Junior College, was the choice based on his broad range of experience and familiarity with the area and state.

He also is a colleague of SPC Seminole Campus Provost Jim Olliver, who took Law's position when Law left SPJC in 1988.

"Either one (of the two finalists) would have been great," said Olliver.

"Bill is an outstanding professional. St. Petersburg College is very lucky to have someone the great caliber of Dr. Law."

Scott Daniels, a member of SPC's presidential search



advisory committee, said the selection was "no surprise."

Prior to [Tallahassee Community College](#), Law served as president of Montgomery College in Houston, Texas and Lincoln Land Community College in Springfield, Ill.

While at Montgomery College, his responsibilities included planning, managing and implementing a \$50 million construction budget and directing a national recruitment effort for more than 200 faculty members.

While at Tallahassee, Law served as assistant to the vice chancellor of the Florida Board of Regents and later became the staff director for the Florida House of Representative's Committee on Higher Education.

He graduated with a bachelor's degree in English from LeMoyne College, before earning a masters degree and a doctorate in postsecondary education at Florida State University.

Law is married and has two sons.

Kuttler announced his plans to retire last summer. The Board of Trustees immediately began a search process and formed a 13-member search committee, made up of community leaders as well as members of the college community, to help with the selection process.

An initial list of 25 candidates was developed, which was

Law named SPC president....

continued

sized down to a final group of four.

Brett, chairman of the board, commended the candidates “to go out on a limb and be a part of this.”

The decision came down to Keegan, a 51-year-old educator known for his innovative style, and Law who is familiar with the Florida legislative system and the goals of SPC.

“This is a hard decision,” said Brett. “In my mind, Dr. Law is more of a proven entity and Dr. Keegan is much younger and more of a breath of fresh air.”

Gibbons noted that both candidates are very talented and equal in terms of education.

“Both are very good leaders where they are now,” he said. “But who can lead this institution? Change is tough but we have to decide who can lead us the best.”

Burke said he believed the college “can win with either of these two candidates.

“I’m looking for a person who is an innovator, who takes new approaches to improve student success and graduation,” Burke said. “I would have to give a slight edge to Dr. Keegan. His concept of shared governance could be very effective.”

Brett referred to Law as the “safe” candidate for the school and favored his selection.

“Sometimes the timing is good to have a safe candidate,” Brett said.

“The political climate and economic climate make me not want to be as innovative as I would normally. I lean toward someone tested who knows Florida, the Legislature, is entrepreneurial, knows the community and St. Petersburg College.”

Brett added that Law knows the system and “can lead and be great from day one.”

“I’ve watched (Law) operate with people and I think he’s geared to handle an institution like this one,” said Johnston. “It’s going to take a broad person to handle it and I think Bill Law is the safest candidate right now in our progression at St. Petersburg College.”

Gibbons made a final effort to sway the board toward Keegan, challenging the board to think who would be best for the college for the next 15 years.

“We’re no longer St. Petersburg Junior College,” Gibbons said. “We’re St. Petersburg College and to go forward we’re going to need a broad innovator.”

Burke then switched gears and made a motion to vote on the hiring of Law. The decision was unopposed.

TCC Students Return From International Conference With Award

Reporter: Press Release

EMAIL ADDRESS: NEWS@WCTV.TV

News Release from [Tallahassee Community College](#):

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. -

Students from [Tallahassee Community College](#)'s Model United Nations returned this week from participating in the 2010 National Model United Nations (NMUN) conference, held in New York City.

The students, representing the United Nation's delegation from Romania, debated in the UN chambers and heard from such speakers as U.S. Ambassador to the UN Susan Rice. TCC's Model UN was given an Honorable Award for their preparation and performance during the conference.

The NMUN, the oldest and largest intercollegiate Model United Nations conference in the world, hosted over 5,500 students from 356 universities, representing 31 countries on four continents. The students convened in New York City for the five-day long simulation of the United Nations and other international organizations.

Model UN Vice President Eric Pate stated, "I was able to interact with university students from around the world, attempting to find solutions to global issues such as the overcrowding of unsustainable urban centers, desertification and deforestation, and the effects of hazardous radioactive wastes on rural areas."

TCC Model UN member Paul Murphy felt that the conference was phenomenal.

Murphy said, "One of the greatest things about the conference is the last day, where it is held at the United Nations. Model United Nations takes on an entirely new level when you are actually debating at the United Nations. You look around and can only imagine the discussions and decisions that have occurred right around you. The conference further solidifies the tools one can gain from Model United Nations such as public speaking, professional writing skills and simple human-to-human negotiations. NMUN allows students to get past national issues and topics, and go on to an international scale, which often entails one to approach something from an entirely different perspective."

TCC Model UN member Dana Terry added, "NMUN is truly a great experience. I can honestly say that I've learned more about the United Nations and its member states in preparation for this one week than I have in any class. Not only were we expected to speak, debate and write resolutions on the given topics of our committee, but we were expected to do so in collaboration with other students from all over the world.

TCC faculty advisers Dr. Richard Murgo and Dr. Tom Waller have worked with the students throughout the year and accompanied them to New York. A particular high point for the group was the arrival of TCC president Bill Law for the closing ceremonies and award presentations at the United Nations.

TCC's 2010-11 Model UN conference schedule includes trips to Atlanta, New York and the Czech Republic, as well as hosting a high school conference at the state capitol.

Students interested in participating in TCC's Model United Nations program should call (850) 201-8145.

TCC's Katie Lovern Named to All-Florida Academic Team

Katie Lovern has been named to the 2010 Phi Theta Kappa All-Florida Academic Second-Team

Reporter: Press Release

EMAIL ADDRESS: NEWS@WCTV.TV

News Release from [Tallahassee Community College](#)

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. – [Tallahassee Community College](#) student Katie Lovern (Tallahassee, Fla.) has been named to the 2010 Phi Theta Kappa (PTK) All-Florida Academic Second-Team.

The PTK All-Academic Team was announced as part of Florida College System Month, formerly known as Community College month.

Lovern is the president of TCC's Rho Tau Chapter of PTK.

This year's team consists of 103 outstanding students representing Florida's 28 state, community and junior colleges, one independent college and one independent university.

"The Phi Theta Kappa All-Florida Academic Team represents the best of the Florida College System," said Willis N. Holcombe, Chancellor of the Florida College System. "These hard-working students are committed both in the classroom and in their communities. We are very proud of their accomplishments and thankful to PTK for this chance to highlight their abilities."

The students were recognized during an awards ceremony held at Walt Disney World's Swan and Dolphin Resort as part of PTK's annual convention. The convention is a three-day event that educates and recognizes members, advisers and alumni. As part of the awards ceremony, team members were presented with PTK medallions and certificates. Members may also apply for exclusive transfer scholarships that are offered by more than 680 senior institutions totaling more than \$36 million.

The All-Florida Academic Team is composed of students who were nominated by their respective colleges to the All-USA Academic Team competition sponsored by the Coca-Cola Scholars Foundation, the Florida Association of Community Colleges, the Florida College System Foundation, PTK, the international honor society for two-year colleges, and USA Today. Students named to the All-Florida Academic Team are chosen based on their exceptional academic achievement, leadership and community service.

In nominating students for the All-Florida Academic Team, colleges considered:

- Participation in honors programs;
- Membership in and awards received from academic or honors organizations;
- Awards and honors received for academic and leadership accomplishments;
- Academic enrichment achieved through study, internships and cultural experiences; and
- Sharing of academic attainments, knowledge and skills through community service

A complete list of the 2010 PTK All-Florida Academic Team is available online.

Capital City Caper hits Tallahassee

Amanda Nalley

DEMOCRAT STAFF WRITER

Teams from across Tallahassee will be participating in this weekend's Capital City Caper, a scavenger hunt style race where participants are asked to complete tasks and/or find items at a variety of Tallahassee venues.

The event benefits the [Tallahassee Community College](#) and starts at 2 p.m. with an awards ceremony at 6:30 p.m.

For more visit capitalcitycaper.com.

Tallahassee Democrat - April 19, 2010

TCC Receives Grant For Veteran Success Center

Tallahassee Community College receives a grant that will help aid veterans with post-secondary education.

Email Address: lauren.searcy@wctv.tv

News Release from TCC:

TG's Public Benefit Grant Program, a philanthropic initiative of TG, has awarded \$124,425 to [Tallahassee Community College](#) (TCC) to help fund efforts that will lead to greater opportunities and access to higher education and greater student success in preparing for and earning a college degree.

To qualify for the award, TCC declared its intent to use grant funding to improve access to, or participation in, post-secondary education, college retention and student success for military veterans.

"This innovative project will help ensure that veterans receive strong support from disability support services specialists, academic advisors, career counselors and intensive student success services," said TCC President Bill Law. "TG's generous investment will have a strong, positive influence on the education of veterans and the enrichment of our community."

A growing need has emerged to improve the retention and graduation of veterans through student support services. Although TCC has traditionally served as a college of choice for 650 veterans annually, the U.S. Army Research Office (ARO) estimated that veterans' enrollment

will significantly increase during the next few years.

Research indicates that veterans have needs that are uniquely different from other college students. Returning veterans are older than the average TCC student's age of 21 and have expectations and life experiences that most students can't imagine.

"Our nation's future depends on our ability to inspire students to achieve all that they're capable of accomplishing," said Sue McMillin, president and CEO of TG, a Texas-based, non-profit corporation that provides federal student loan guarantees to help ensure access to higher education for millions of students across the country each year. "By providing funds for TCC's program, we're pleased that TG can help change the future for individual students, families and society as a whole."

The TCC Foundation is one of 53 nonprofit organizations selected for funding. Overall, TG awarded more than \$5.6 million for projects in 2009-2010.

TCC will establish a one-stop clearinghouse to assist veterans with disability support services, academic counseling, financial aid, tutoring and other learning services. A new orientation program, early registration program, web site, networking activities and mental

TCC Receives Grant...

continued

health counseling services also will be developed that focus on veterans.

Further information about the new program may be obtained by contacting Delorise Page-Robinson, TCC Veterans Affairs Coordinator, by phone, (850) 201-8406, or e-mail robinsod@tcc.fl.edu. Page-Robinson will served as Project Director for the TG initiative.

About TG:

TG is a public, nonprofit corporation that helps create access to higher education for millions of families and students through its role as an administrator of the Federal Family Education Loan Program (FFELP). Its vision is to be the premier source of information, financing, and assistance to help all families and students realize their educational and career dreams.