

TALLAHASSEE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

In the News



September 15, 2010 - October 9, 2010



TALLAHASSEE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

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TalTech meets today at TCC's new training center

DEMOCRAT STAFF REPORT

The Tallahassee Technology Alliance luncheon today will focus on the area's manufacturing outlook.

Co-sponsored by the Tallahassee/Leon County Economic Development Council, the TalTech luncheon will feature a presentation by Bruce Batton, program manager for [Tallahassee Community College's](#) new Advanced Manufacturing Training Center, followed by a panel discussion with area manufacturing industry representatives.

Batton will talk about the AMTC, which is part of TCC's Center for Workforce Development. He will explain how AMTC is expected to be a resource to enhance career training, business' employee recruiting and provide support for returning adult learners.

His presentation will be followed by a panel discussion with manufacturing representatives who will discuss the industry's status, direction and current technology needs.

The meeting will be held at AMTC, 3958 W. Pensacola St., and is expected to last from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. There is no cost for TalTech members; non-members pay \$20 or can join TalTech at the door.

For more information on the meeting, go to www.taltech.org and click on "upcoming events."

The Tallahassee Technology Alliance is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit association of businesses, academic centers, entrepreneurs and individuals invested in promoting technology-based entrepreneurship, business expansion and innovation in the Capital region.

TalTech has 250 members representing more than 75 area technology-based companies, institutions and organizations.

Check back on Tallahassee.com for an update of this story and look for more coverage tomorrow in the Tallahassee Democrat.

Where Is the Best Location For Your Business?

Published state rankings and accolades are just a starting point in the location decision process; individual company needs are what really matter.

By Dana Olson, President and CEO, EcoDev

We're all familiar with the handful of states that consistently come out on top when it comes to ranking those best for business. Whether it is taxation, work force quality, or a pro-business attitude, certain states continually stand out above others.

However, for any business looking to launch, relocate, or expand into a new area, knowing which states have won accolades is only a starting point. Every company needs to do its homework to determine the best state and the ideal community for its business. This entails taking a close look at the operating activity and the needs of the company and analyzing key costs in different areas of the United States.

The process includes assessing a multitude of factors, from infrastructure and labor needs to tax scenarios and transportation and shipping/logistics costs — each factor plays a critical role in determining where to base operations.

Avoid Knee-Jerk Reactions

A company should not be too quick to locate in its home state or make a knee-jerk reaction based on others' rankings. Often many of the lists of so-called "best states for business" rely on limited criteria to determine rankings; a company needs to take a more holistic approach to find the best state to meet its needs and cost-reduction objectives.

For instance, a state that is recognized for lower taxes may still prove cost-prohibitive for the average company because of high property costs or the cost of qualified labor — the biggest expense for most companies. It all comes down to analyzing the business' operating model and assessing the full spectrum of key costs in different areas of the nation.

Of course, finding the best place to locate a business goes a step further than looking at state-level attributes; a company needs to find the ideal community that will support the growth of its business. The site selection process may start by looking at which states have "the best" business climates, but the decision-making process is further narrowed to consider how a particular community meets the critical needs of the business. Let's

look at an example:

Ask Area Development

Are you planning a business relocation? Submit your questions below to Ask Area Development and the article author will respond.

An Example

When Danfoss Turbocor Compressors, Inc. sought to relocate its operations from Montreal, Canada to the southeastern United States in 2006, it made sense to consider Florida for its location — but even more importantly, for its reputation as a state that invests in green businesses.

The manufacturer of oil-free compressors wanted a location that would be closer to the markets it serves and allow it to operate in the most cost-effective and efficient manner as possible. The company also sought close access to high-tech resources (vendors, etc.) and an ongoing source of highly qualified employees. Once Florida was on the table as an option for Danfoss, the search process continued to find the ideal community that would best serve the critical needs of the company.

One Florida community in particular, Tallahassee, stepped up in a number of ways that demonstrated it would be a good home base for Danfoss. To meet Danfoss' high-tech labor needs (i.e., a large number of engineers and skilled technicians), the community worked with [Tallahassee Community College](#) to create a special program for sheet metal operators that would aid Danfoss in training and recruitment. Tallahassee also built a facility to the company's specifications and leased it back to Danfoss at a subsidized rate. Lastly, beyond fulfilling Danfoss' need to be in the Southeast, the community provided attractive cash incentives that proved it would be a good partner for the long-term growth of the company.

Questions to Ask

Following in this line of reasoning, below is a list of sample questions to help guide the decision-making process when looking for a location at which to grow your company:

Where Is the Best Location For Your Business?

continued

- What are the labor needs of the business? Since the cost of labor is the biggest expense for most companies, it is important to carefully assess labor needs to find the area that will provide the most cost-effective, qualified labor. What education and skill levels are required? Can employees' skill levels be matched in an area that may have had recent plant closures, resulting in a number of qualified employees available for work?

If there is a need for highly trained employees, it may make sense to identify an area with a nearby community college and develop a relationship to aid ongoing training and recruitment. It is also important to look at areas that are capable of recruiting into the community to avoid turnover issues. Finally, companies should seek out a location where they will be an employer of choice and an integral part of the community to ensure long-term success.

- Does proximity to clients or vendors matter? If the majority of a business' clients or key vendors are located in a particular region, it may make sense to locate the business in close proximity in order to reduce travel or shipping expenses or to provide better (in-person) customer service.

Ask Area Development

Are you planning a business relocation? Submit your questions below to Ask Area Development and the article author will respond.

- Does the business need to be located near a port or rail system? With rising fuel costs, more companies are looking for ways to scale back transportation and shipping of products.

- How will the local tax situation impact the business? Even states that boast they are "no-tax" locations (e.g., no corporate income tax) do have taxes that will affect your business in one way or another. It is important for a business to know all the applicable taxes it will face, from franchise taxes to sales and use taxes.

- What are the business' property requirements? The cost of property varies dramatically depending on location.

Costs to build a facility can range from \$80 to \$230 per square foot depending on where you build. Even if a company is leasing property, the original building costs are reflected in the lease rate. Therefore, companies should begin by outlining the amount and type of space required to operate the business.

- What is the quality of life in the area you are considering? Before locating a business, a company should ask if the area is recognized as a "nice place to live" beyond a good place to operate a business. Employee retention and future recruitment depend on offering a good quality of life.

In Sum

Identifying the best place to locate a business is a major decision. The process may begin by taking a look at the "best states for business," but should ultimately take into consideration the diverse needs of the individual company. Location alone can determine if a company is profitable or not. There can be a cost differential of as much as 30 percent or more depending on where the business is located. Knowing what questions to ask and examining the full spectrum of operating costs will ensure that the company makes the right move to a community that is a good match. This will help both parties — community and company — to recoup their investments and maintain employment objectives for the long run.

Civitan Club awards scholarships

By Gene Caruthers

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

The Tallahassee Civitan Club presented funds to Tallahassee Community College Foundation Executive Director Robin C. Johnston following his address to the Club Sept. 2.

The Tallahassee Civitan Jimmy and Sherrill Ragans Scholarships provide financial assistance to selected students studying at Tallahassee Community College. The Club recognizes students for academic achievement, service to their school and community, as well as those receiving support and encouragement of their teachers.

The TCC Foundation provides scholarships for students, support for faculty and service to the community. The Foundation has launched a new Healthcare Provision & Excellence initiative to provide resources and supplements to enhance health care education at TCC.

This year's scholarships were given to Amanda L. Ethridge and Kerri L. Owens. Both are former students of Lincoln High School and were members of Junior Civitan.

The Tallahassee Civitan Club is currently celebrating its 60th anniversary. It was chartered by Civitan International, which was established in 1917. That organization now has more than 40,000 members in 30 countries. The volunteer members work together in community clubs to help those less fortunate, with an emphasis on aid to people with developmental disabilities, youth leadership development and good citizenship.

The Club is seeking new members in Tallahassee who wish to be involved in helping others, developing new friendships and business contacts.

For more information, visit www.civitan.org or phone 850-668 9669.

Tallahassee Democrat - 20, 2010

TCC search committee and trustees to meet today

By Angeline J. Taylor

DEMOCRAT STAFF WRITER

Tallahassee Community College's presidential search committee and trustees will meet Monday where they are expected to name a list of finalists for president of the institution.

TCC search committee will meet at noon Monday in the college's administration building.

Trustees have scheduled their monthly board meeting at 4 p.m., which is also held in the administration building.

The list of semi-finalists vying for the presidency are:

- Sarah Garrett, vice president of academic affairs, to Bristol Community College in Massachusetts;
- Eugene Giovannini, president of Maricopa County Community College District in Arizona;
- Randall Hanna, chairman of Bryant Miller & Olive Attorneys;

- Betty Inclan, president of Berkeley City College in California;

- Jeanne Jacobs, president of Miami Dade College's Homestead campus in Florida;

- Thomas Keegan, president of Peninsula College in Port Angeles, Wash.;

- Jim Murdaugh, assistant vice president of Tallahassee Community College;

- Luke Robins, chancellor of Louisiana Delta College in Monroe, La.;

- Patricia Rowell, western campus president of Cuyahoga Community College in Cleveland, Ohio;

- Kaye Walter, chief learning officer of Valencia Community College in Orlando, Fl.

TCC search panel expects to name finalists for president

By Angeline J. Taylor
DEMOCRAT STAFF WRITER

Tallahassee Community College officials will get one step closer today to knowing who the future president of their institution will be.

At noon, TCC's presidential search committee will narrow down the semifinalist list, spokeswoman Alice Maxwell said.

Each of the 10 semifinalists submitted a 10-minute video answering three questions, search committee chair Karen Moore said.

The search committee will determine which candidates best answered the questions and name no fewer than three and no more than five finalists who will have on-campus interviews at a later date.

The three questions the candidates had to answer were as follows:

What attracted you to apply for the presidency of TCC?

In several states, community college leaders are discussing, planning or implementing baccalaureate degree programs. What is your reaction to this movement?

What would be your priorities during your first 30 days as president of TCC?

TCC trustees will meet later today. They are expected to either accept all or some of the candidates, or place additional names on the list, Moore said.

"The list that we have of potential candidates is probably the finest list of any community college in the nation. The pool is that strong," Moore said.

The 10 semifinalists for TCC president are Sarah Garrett, vice president of academic affairs, Bristol Community College in Massachusetts; Eugene Giovannini, president of Maricopa County Community College District in Arizona; Randy Hanna, chairman of Bryant Miller & Olive Attorneys; Betty Inclan, president of Berkeley City College in California; Jeanne Jacobs, president of Miami Dade College's Homestead campus; Thomas Keegan, president of Peninsula College in Port Angeles, Wash.; Jim Murdaugh, assistant vice president of Tallahassee Community College; Luke Robins, chancellor of Louisiana Delta College in Monroe, La.; Patricia Rowell, western campus president of Cuyahoga Community College in Cleveland; and Kaye Walter, chief learning officer of Valencia Community College in Orlando.

Grant will fund improvements to TCC science programs

DEMOCRAT STAFF REPORT

[Tallahassee Community College](#) has received a \$200,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Education to purchase equipment to enhance science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) instruction.

"This generous award will have a strong, positive impact on the education of students, and will strengthen the instructional capacity of our classrooms and laboratories," said Frank Brown, dean of science and mathematics at TCC and acting vice president for academic affairs, in making the announcement.

The funds will be used at the college's STEM Center, an integrated learning facility that provides resources to improve students' success. TCC said there will be purchases of equipment to support learning, group study, workshop, seminar, technology and multi-media activities.

Other planned purchases include equipment for astronomy, chemistry laboratory, biology, microbiology and organic chemistry laboratory courses.

TCC will be getting a telescope for astronomy education and a polarimeter and 60 MHz proton nuclear magnetic resonance spectrometer for organic chemistry laboratory instruction.

WCTV - September 20, 2010

TCC Narrows Presidential Search to Five

[Tallahassee Community College](#) has released the names of the final five individuals in the running for its vacant presidential post.

Reporter: TCC Press Release

Tallahassee, FL - [Tallahassee Community College](#) has released the names of the final five individuals in the running for its vacant presidential post.

The College's Presidential Search Committee narrowed the list of candidates from ten to five during a meeting on Monday afternoon. Later that afternoon, TCC's District Board of Trustees approved the list at its monthly board meeting.

Each of the finalists will spend two days on TCC's campus, meeting with board members, students, faculty, staff and community members.

A recommendation will be made at the October 18 board meeting.

The five finalists and last position held are listed in alphabetical order:

- Randall Hanna, Managing Shareholder and Chairman, Bryant Miller & Olive Attorneys at Law
- Jeanne Jacobs, President, Homestead Campus, Miami Dade College
- Thomas Keegan, President, Peninsula College
- Jim Murdaugh, Assistant Vice President, Tallahassee Community College
- Patricia Rowell, Western Campus President, Cuyahoga Community College

TCC names five finalists for president

By Angeline J. Taylor

DEMOCRAT STAFF WRITER

One of five people selected as finalists Monday for the presidency of [Tallahassee Community College](#) will be named the institution's new leader within the next month.

The five finalists are: Randall Hanna, chairman, Bryant Miller & Olive Attorneys-at-Law; Jeanne Jacobs, president, Homestead Campus, Miami Dade College; Thomas Keegan, president, Peninsula College in Port Angeles, Wash.; Jim Murdaugh, assistant vice president, [Tallahassee Community College](#); and Patricia Rowell, western campus president, Cuyahoga Community College in Ohio.

The candidates will be interviewed between Sept. 28 and Oct. 14. The order of interviews was selected randomly. Jacobs will be interviewed first. Rowell will follow. Murdaugh is the third finalist to be interviewed. Then, Hanna and Keegan will complete the list.

TCC trustees unanimously approved the list of finalists during the board meeting held in the administration building on campus.

"I think this college is extremely fortunate to have the slate of nominees," search committee chairwoman Karen Moore said after trustees approved the vote.

Trustee Eugene Lamb said, "The goal is to give everybody time with the candidate."

Each candidate will go through a two-day interviewing process. They will spend time with different groups of stakeholders at TCC. Then, the final interview will be with TCC trustees. Each trustee will get 10 minutes to ask

questions of each candidate.

Trustees were given the recommendation of finalists by the presidential search committee, who has been meeting since August about the candidates. Monday was its last meeting prior to the trustees' vote. The committee narrowed the list down from 59 to 27, then to 10 and finally to five. Search committee members, who hold different jobs throughout the community, said they were pleased with the overall process.

The 13 committee members who voted Monday viewed the videos of each of the 10 semifinalists before narrowing the candidates' list to five. Murdaugh sat in the board room as trustees approved the search committee's recommendations. He nodded and smiled when his name was announced during the meeting.

After the finalists' names were announced, trustees and search committee members had the same questions. They asked consultant Jeff Hockaday about background checks, interviews, the interviewing process and what questions could be asked to each nominee.

Hockaday said, "What I have done is a preliminary check to make sure there is nothing that would come (back) to bite us."

Hockaday added that he would do a more in-depth background search on the five finalists.

"Because we're on this tight timeline, HR (human resources) sent an e-mail of what would happen to the finalists," Moore said.

Political Bits and Pieces

Kevin Derby

While prominent Democrats like Senate Minority Leader Al Lawson of Tallahassee and Rep. Yolly Roberson of North Miami Beach have endorsed Gov. Charlie Crist, who is running without party affiliation for the U.S. Senate, the governor still has a few friends left in the Republican ranks.

On Monday, the Friends for Freedom and Prosperity, a 527 organization with ties to Sen. Mike Fasano, R-New Port Richey, and former Senate President Ken Pruitt who is now running for property appraiser in St. Lucie County, released a mailer praising Crist for standing up to special interests and being above partisanship ... Looking to keep Democrats from backing Crist, the campaign team of U.S. Rep. Kendrick Meek, the Democrat in the Senate race, blasted a new mailer from the governor's team, arguing that it revealed that Crist is in fact a conservative despite leaving the Republicans back in April ...

Bernie DeCastro, the Constitution Party candidate in the U.S. Senate race, will be attending the Nullify Now conference in Orlando on Oct. 10, focusing on reclaiming states' rights from the federal government. Other attendees include bestselling libertarian author Thomas Woods and former New Mexico Gov. Gary Johnson. While Johnson is the subject of buzz about making a stab at the 2012 Republican presidential nomination, the former New Mexico governor, best known for his opposition to the drug war, continues to leave the door open for a possible third party or independent bid for the White House. He even attended a media event Tuesday to push for legalizing cannabis in California, led by Christina Tobin of the Free and Equal Foundation. While Tobin is running for secretary of state in California as a Libertarian, she is best known for her work on Ralph Nader's independent presidential bid in 2008 ...

The Rotary Club of Land O' Lakes is getting a good look at the two candidates running to replace retiring U.S. Rep. Ginny Brown-Waite in Congress. Hernando County Sheriff Rich Nugent, the Republican candidate, spoke to the group on Monday. Next Monday, Democratic candidate Jim Piccillo will address the organization ... Democrat U.S. Rep. Suzanne Kosmas, facing a tough challenge from Republican Rep. Sandy Adams of Oviedo, released her second television ad of the general election

on Tuesday, blasting Adams for backing tax breaks for companies that outsource American jobs ... Republican U.S. Rep. Gus Bilirakis joined U.S. Rep. Carolyn Maloney, a Democrat from New York City, in condemning the 36-year occupation of northern Cyprus by Turkey. Bilirakis and Maloney called for Turkey to respect the freedom of religion and to protect religious sites ...

Speaking to the Jacksonville Rotary Club on Tuesday, U.S. Rep. Ander Crenshaw, part of the Republican leadership in the U.S. House, predicted that Republicans would win control of the House in November ... Crenshaw joined forces with Democratic U.S. Rep. Allen Boyd -- who Republicans are targeting in November -- to bring \$200,000 to [Tallahassee Community College](#) to improve equipment for science, technology, engineering and mathematics courses ... Jacksonville City Councilman Daniel Davis, a Republican who is running to replace Rep. Jennifer Carroll of Jacksonville in the House, is already laying the groundwork for his own 527. With Carroll being selected by Republican gubernatorial candidate Rick Scott to be his running mate for lieutenant governor, Davis is the only candidate on the ballot to replace her in representing parts of Clay and Duval counties ...

Democratic CFO candidate Lorrane Ausley, a former representative, held a media event Tuesday hammering her Republican opponent, Senate President Jeff Atwater of North Palm Beach, for blocking the state accessing federal funding for energy rebates ... Speaking of the energy rebates, Rep. Bill Proctor, R-St. Augustine, backed the contention of House Speaker Larry Cretul, R-Ocala, that the rebate program needs the approval of the full House and not just the Legislative Budget Commission. Proctor added that he would back the House voting on the rebate program ... Disbarred attorney Jack Thompson, who ran against Janet Reno for Dade County state attorney back in 1988, continued his campaign against violent video games, this time focusing on the latest installment in the "Medal of Honor" franchise. Thompson sent a letter to U.S. Defense Secretary Robert Gates, arguing that the newest game, which allows gamers to play as a member of the Taliban, could threaten American lives.

Florida Dept. of Education to Host College & Career Day at TCC

The Florida Department of Education will host it's first-ever College & Career Day tomorrow, September 23 for middle school students from Gadsden, Leon and Wakulla Counties.

REPORTER: FLORIDA DOE PRESS RELEASE

The Florida Department of Education will host it's first-ever College & Career Day tomorrow, September 23 for middle school students from Gadsden, Leon and Wakulla Counties. These students will be learning directly from college campus recruiters about what it takes to prepare for a post secondary education.

Representatives from [Tallahassee Community College](#), North Florida Community College, Florida State University, Florida A&M University, the University of North Florida, and other institutions, will be on hand to share information on the enrollment and admissions process. In addition, students will have the opportunity to learn about the financial aid process and gain a better perspective of online advising tools and the challenging coursework they will experience in high school.

The event will take place:

Thursday, Sept. 23, 2010

9:00 a.m.

[Tallahassee Community College](#)

444 Appleyard Drive

Turner Auditorium and Student Union Ballroom

Tallahassee

Update: Middle school students get a taste of college

Iricka Berlinger

DEMOCRAT STAFF WRITER

Thirteen-year-old Tyler Kinard is on track to be a nurse.

She knows she needs to excel in her classes at Riversprings Middle to be accepted into the medical academy at Wakulla High and continue on to college.

For students whose paths aren't nearly so well formed, Thursday's inaugural College and Career Day hosted by the Florida Department of Education offered advice and motivation to get the middle-schoolers thinking about life after high school.

More than 300 eighth-grade students from FAMU DRS, Nims, Wakulla, Riversprings and Shanks middle schools spent the morning at [Tallahassee Community College](#) to scope out what college life is like.

"It's exciting to see what to expect," Tyler said, dressed in a cap and gown and waiting to get her photo taken like a real graduate. "It's never too early to start planning. I know I need to go to college to get an education and make a living."

Students visited with representatives from several Florida universities including Florida State, University of Florida and University of South Florida to get information on the schools and sign up for their mailing lists.

FSU quarterback Christian Ponder spoke to the crowd about his time in middle school in Texas. He was on the football, baseball and track teams and involved in theater.

"Whether you choose the prestigious Florida State or that other school down south, college is important," Ponder said. "You have to figure out what you enjoy — find your passion and don't go for the easy route."

Frank Brogan, chancellor of the Florida Board of Governors, offered words of advice from his lengthy career as a middle school teacher and university president.

"Work hard at school not just because you have to but because you are building your future. We are offering you the keys to success, but it's up to you to take advantage of it," Brogan said.

Shanks eighth-grader Le'Kendrick Berry took Brogan's words to heart and signed up to receive information from FSU, where he wants to study biology.

"I want to learn about what they have to offer," he said, "and I want to be sure I'm ready."

Morning report

The Florida Department of Education will host its first-ever College & Career Day today for middle school students from Gadsden, Leon and Wakulla Counties.

Students will be learning directly from college campus recruiters about what it takes to prepare for a postsecondary education.

Speakers include Florida State quarterback Christian Ponder and Frank Brogan, chancellor of Florida Board of Governors, to address students about the importance of college.

Representatives from [Tallahassee Community College](#), North Florida Community College, Florida State University, Florida A&M University, the University of North Florida, and other institutions, will be also on hand to share information on the enrollment and admissions process.

Check back for more on this story.

Grant Awarded to TCC to Assist Adults with Disabilities

Getting a job in today's economy is hard enough especially with disabilities. There's a grant in place to help them find their place in society.

REPORTER: AMY LONG/ PRESS RELEASE

PUBLICATION

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. (September 14, 2010) — A \$34,037 grant has been awarded to [Tallahassee Community College](#) by the Florida Department of Education's Division of Vocational Rehabilitation to provide therapeutic recreation and active leisure activities for adults with disabilities in Leon, Gadsden and Wakulla counties.

The project will be implemented through TCC by the nonprofit Florida Disabled Outdoors Association (FDOA). Funding is made possible by an appropriation from the Florida Legislature.

The program's goals are to improve stamina and muscle strength, reduce anxiety and depression, promote general feelings of well-being and encourage participation in the community.

The project is the latest in a long history of collaborative efforts between TCC and FDOA, which was founded in 1990 by David Jones, a TCC graduate who had been severely injured in a hunting accident. After extensive rehabilitation, Jones established the association and its annual event, SportsAbility—held at TCC, Ochlockonee River State Park and Miracle Field at Messer Park—to provide others with access to the recreational opportunities that he credits with helping him regain his place in society.

"I came back home to my TCC family to see if we could go forward together to provide active recreation activities for people with disabilities," Jones said.

Active recreation and leisure activities help people with disabilities enter the workforce by promoting wellness, increasing stamina and reducing secondary health conditions. For instance, a person with diabetes may well avoid the amputation of a limb through therapeutic recreation. By the same token, the program enhances mental and emotional wellness and promotes social involvement.

"People who can overcome the barriers to recreation can develop the esteem to attack the workforce," said Jones. "The Florida Disabled Outdoors Association is all about active leisure, quality of life and being part of the community."

Since 1995, TCC has supported SportsAbility by co-hosting and contributing to the event while the College's faculty, staff and students have served as volunteers. Jones has served as a director of the TCC Alumni Association and has been honored as a distinguished alumnus of the College.

Individuals interested in participating in this year's project may contact FDOA at (850) 201-2944, extension 3 or info@fdoa.org. FDOA's offices are located at 2475 Apalachee Parkway, Suite 205, Tallahassee, FL 32301. Please visit www.fdoa.org to learn more about participating in the program or to register online for the SportsAbility event.

PC president finalist for Florida job

(Port Angeles) -- Peninsulas College's president is making another run at a job in Florida.

Dr. Tom Keegan is a finalist to become the next president at [Tallahassee Community College](#). The college confirmed Keegan was on the list of finalists earlier this week.

Keegan and the other four finalists are spending two days on the Florida campus.

The college plans to make a final decision by the middle of October.

Earlier this year, Keegan was picked as the second choice to become the president of St. Petersburg College in Florida. Keegan has been president at Peninsula College since 2001.

Tallahassee Democrat - September 24, 2010

Peninsula College president 'flattered' to be finalist for Florida post again

By Paige Dickerson

PENINSULA DAILY NEWS

PORT ANGELES -- Peninsula College President Tom Keegan is one of five finalists for the presidency of [Tallahassee Community College](#) in Florida -- the second time in as many years he's interviewed for a post in the Sunshine State.

He was selected from among 10 semifinalists by a search committee Monday, and the Board of Trustees gave its stamp of approval to the list at its board meeting that day, according to a statement from [Tallahassee Community College](#).

Keegan, who has led Peninsula College since 2001, said in a statement issued Thursday that he is pleased to be among the final five candidates for the presidency.

"TCC is a nationally recognized institution, and I am flattered to be named a finalist," he said. "This opportunity is enticing both professionally and personally."

Keegan was on a flight to Florida to interview for the post, and was unavailable for more comment. He is expected to return at the end of next week.

The board plans to make a decision at its Oct. 18 meeting, according to the [Tallahassee Community College](#) website.

The Tallahassee presidency is a position vacated by Bill Law, who accepted a job at St. Petersburg College in Florida -- a job for which Keegan also was a finalist.

Law, who had led the Tallahassee college for about eight years, and Keegan were tied for the St. Petersburg College search committee's first choice.

Law was offered the job after a contentious meeting in March, in which board members initially split on the decision.

The other finalists for the Tallahassee post are:

- Randall Hanna, managing shareholder and chairman, Bryant Miller & Olive Attorneys at Law, Orlando, Fla.
- Jeanne Jacobs, president, Homestead Campus, Miami Dade College, Fla.
- Jim Murdaugh, assistant vice president, [Tallahassee Community College](#).
- Patricia Rowell, western campus president, Cuyahoga Community College, Ohio.

The college serves about 45,000 students annually, and employs about 1,800 staff at its main campus and four satellite campuses, according to the job announcement for the presidency.

Peninsula College has about 8,700 students and about 61 full-time faculty members, according to its website.

Keegan earns about \$165,000 annually at Peninsula College.

The salary for the Tallahassee job will be negotiated with the candidate who is offered the job.

Peninsula College Board of Trustees Chairman Erik Rohrer said the board was supportive of Keegan's application to Tallahassee.

Peninsula College president 'flattered' to be finalist for Florida post again.... *continued*

"Dr. Keegan has a national reputation that makes him a very attractive candidate," Rohrer said.

"He is widely recognized as an innovative and inspiring leader who puts students and their learning first."

During his tenure at Peninsula College, Keegan has led the college to secure millions from the state Legislature for new buildings on the campus.

The college received about \$36 million from the state Legislature to fund the construction of the 61,750-square-foot Maier Hall, which is currently under construction.

A new library on campus amounted to a \$14 million project, and replaces a 1964 library structure.

The new library is about 27,000 square feet, and the adjoining administration building -- built at the same time -- is about 8,000 square feet.

The Longhouse, called the House of Learning, was opened in 2007 as a place for Native American cultural traditions to be shared.

The college has also started its first four-year degree program with a bachelor of applied science in applied management.

In addition to several previous partnerships with universities to offer four-year degrees, the college was recently accredited to offer more baccalaureate degrees.

"Dr. Keegan continues to transform the college," Rohrer said.

"We want him to stay. At the same time, the board is very supportive of this professional opportunity."

Board of Trustees breaks down finances

By Paul Delva

STAFF WRITER

President James Ammons deferred a bonus of more than \$80,000 at the recent Board of Trustees meeting after accepting a bonus of more than \$100,000 last year.

The meeting began with the introduction of board members and distinguished guests. Among the guest was trustee and FAMU SGA President Gallop Franklin. Franklin was recently named part of the sixth class of the Gubernatorial Fellow Program by Florida Gov. Charlie Crist.

Franklin noted that the meeting would be one of utmost importance.

"We cover a large landscape of students, faculty and community that we impact so naturally we have a very large scope of work," said Franklin.

Ammons talked about the new enrollment record of over 13,355 students, including the largest entering class for the College of Law.

Transfer students from the University of Central Florida and [Tallahassee Community College](#) combined to provide 224 incoming students.

Ammons said that the state of Florida's economy, budget and potential layoffs were probably the most important topics.

"Those issues kind of dominated the discussion over the last two days," said Ammons.

The pending threat of budget cuts, in the absence of stimulus dollars, was also discussed by Ammons.

"What I hope will happen is that legislature, the governor, and all of the decision makers for the state of Florida will fully understand the impact that these cuts are having on the very institutions that can rebuild and advance the economy of the state of Florida," said Ammons.

Another important focal point of the meeting was President Ammons' contract and bonus. When Ammons began his tenure as president at the university, his contract included a clause that entitled him to a bonus depending on his level of progress and achievements.

According to public records, Ammons' receives an annual salary of just over \$300,000 dollars. The bonus he would be eligible for is between 15 to 30 percent of his salary. This equals out to an additional payout of approximately \$81,000.

Thus far Ammons has decided to forgo receipt of his bonus stating that it wouldn't be right with the current state of the economy. William Jennings, chair of the board of trustees, will negotiate a restructured contract and submit it to the board at the end of the year.

TheatreTCC! opens season with “The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (Abridged)”

Tallahassee Community College’s Theatre TCC! opens its 2010-11 season at 8 p.m., Thursday, September 30 with “The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (Abridged).”

Reporter: TCC Press Release

Tallahassee, Florida (September 28, 2010) –

Tallahassee Community College’s Theatre TCC! opens its 2010-11 season at 8 p.m., Thursday, September 30 with “The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (Abridged).”

Praised by the Los Angeles Times as “wildly funny” and by the Montreal Gazette as “the funniest show you are likely to see in your entire lifetime,” “The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (Abridged)” is a non-stop rollercoaster ride through the Shakespearean canon. See Othello win Desdemona’s heart with a rap song, check out the Titus Andronicus Cooking Show, and experience Hamlet performed backwards! Executed by three actors in a mere 90 minutes, this show will keep you laughing from beginning to end.

“The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (Abridged)” is directed by M. Derek Nieves, who also directed “The Hobbit” for Theatre TCC last year.

Additional show times for “The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (Abridged)” are 8 p.m., Friday and Saturday, October 1 and 2 and Thursday-Saturday, October 7-9. All performances will be held in Turner Auditorium, located inside TCC’s Fine and Performing Arts Center.

“The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (Abridged),” the first of three shows on Theatre TCC!’s 2010-11 schedule, will be followed by “It’s a Wonderful Life” (November 18-20, December 2-4) and “Chicago” (April 7-9, 14-16).

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

Tickets for “The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (Abridged)” can be purchased in advance by calling the FSU Fine Arts Ticket Office at (850) 644-6500 or at the door the night of the show. The Turner Auditorium Box Office opens at 7 p.m.

Tickets for the general public are \$10 for adults, \$7 for senior citizens and \$5 for children and non-TCC students. Season tickets are also available for adults (\$30) and senior citizens (\$25). Groups of 10 or more also qualify for a discount: \$5 per ticket for adults and senior citizens, \$3 per ticket for children and non-TCC students. Special event nights are also available to groups.

For more information, call Eva Nielsen-Parks at (850) 201-9882

College and Career Day at TCC

The AVID (Achievement via Individual Determination) students from Riversprings Middle School and Wakulla Middle School accompanied their teachers, Donna Sullivan and Katherine Spivey, to [Tallahassee Community College](#) to attend the first College and Career Day hosted by Florida's Department of Education on Thursday, Sept. 23. There were over 300 eighth graders from throughout the Florida panhandle in attendance.

The event kicked off with local speakers encouraging students to stay motivated and plan now for college. Some of the speakers included Dr. Judith Bilsky, executive vice chancellor of the Office of Student and Academic Success, Christian Ponder, Florida State Seminole's quarterback, Margo Zwerling, a member of the FSU track team, and Frank Brogan, chancellor of the State University System of Florida.

Their messages to the students were clear, which was for them to challenge themselves in middle and high school, become well rounded, set personal goals, get to know your teachers, be organized, eliminate barriers from your mind regarding possible careers and that they could be anything they wanted to be. All of these thoughts are woven through the AVID strategies that are practiced daily at both middle schools. Following the student athlete presentation, attendees were invited to a college and career fair to learn about college admissions directly from college recruiters, the financial aid process, online advising tools and the challenging coursework they will experience in high school.

Students had a chance to participate in a scavenger hunt and meet with representatives from various colleges and universities.

"The students who attended today's inaugural event now know the benefits of maintaining their focus on education and have a better idea of the challenges ahead," said Florida Education Commissioner Dr. Eric J. Smith. "Florida's students are capable of incredible achievements and it's important they know that our state

colleges, universities and career and technical training centers are here to help make their dreams a reality."

The event provided a personal glimpse of the college experience for students by coupling a brief campus visit with face-to-face interaction among other students who have been successful in higher education. Students listened to presentations on Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate, Advanced International Certificate of Education, Career and Technical Education, and the Florida Future Business Leaders of America organization, among many others.

In addition, representatives from five of the state's 11 public universities participated in the event, taking advantage of the opportunity to educate these students about what it takes to be successful in college. Florida State University, the University of Florida, the University of North Florida, the University of South Florida and Florida A & M University joined [Tallahassee Community College](#) and Warner University to meet with students.

"Whatever you choose to pursue in your work life, be the best one they have ever had," said Brogan. "Right now, though, work hard at school not just because you have to but because you are building your future. Today, we are offering you keys to that future with these college and career booths."

Over lunch, the Wakulla students had the opportunity for team building to strengthen the relationship between the two middle schools. They will work together next year when they are part of the AVID program at Wakulla High School.

AVID strategies encourage students to be organized, take challenging courses throughout their educational careers and create a plan to work toward their long-term goals.

Although only one year old in Wakulla County, AVID is celebrating its 30th year promoting student success.

TCC's Advanced Manufacturing Training Center is Open for Business

Tallahassee Community College is proud to announce the first full schedule of courses to be offered through its new Advanced Manufacturing Training Center (AMTC).

Reporter: TCC Release

A composite materials class is underway and is the first among an entire semester's worth of courses. The AMTC's courses teach a variety of manufacturing skills and provide training from basic fundamentals through advanced techniques. Scheduled classes include Manufacturing Fundamentals, Intro to CNC Machining Lathe Operator, CNC Machining Level 2, Mastercam and Intro to Aviation Science.

"We've already had a great response to our first composite materials course," said Bruce Batton, director of the AMTC. "And now with the full schedule of classes beginning on October 4, people will have even more opportunities to build or enhance their skills."

The AMTC is a unique training resource for local manufacturing and industrial businesses and provides customized skills training for existing and emerging workforces. Its 24,000 square feet includes practical hands-on training labs, classroom and conference space, and a process development area for local entrepreneurial companies.

August 10, the AMTC's grand opening was held with a one-of-a-kind ribbon cutting involving a blowtorch and a length of metal chain. On September 15, the AMTC hosted the TalTech Alliance's Information Technology Roundtable Luncheon—a gathering that generated a rousing discussion of Tallahassee's manufacturing industry. Yet the beginning of classes on August 25 was the most exciting development of all and represents the fruition of an idea more than a year in the making. The hiss of a CNC lathe, the hum of a 4-axis mini mill and the satisfaction of a job well done all go hand-in-hand at the AMTC.

The AMTC is a part of TCC's Center for Workforce Development, a division of the College that offers customized courses and services to enhance employees' careers, programs to improve business effectiveness and support for returning adult learners. In addition to manufacturing, targeted workforce training is offered in other fields including information technology, allied health and business, as well as construction and trades.

The AMTC, located at 3958 West Pensacola Street, sits on the southwest corner of TCC's campus at the intersection of Pensacola Street and Century Park Drive.

Manufacturers roundtable meets Thursday

Business Matters Staff Report

The Capital Region Manufacturers Roundtable meets Thursday at 11:30 a.m. for a program by the Northwest Florida Defense Coalition.

The keynote speaker for the luncheon is Jim Breitenfeld, the coalition's Defense Support Initiative Task Force manager. The coalition works to enhance Northwest Florida's contribution to national defense and to connect the region's industry talent, experience and resources to ensure its long-term economic viability.

The free forum takes place at the Advanced Manufacturing Training Center at [Tallahassee Community College](#). The center is at 3958 W. Pensacola St. Other speakers include Derrick Sykes of Workforce Plus, Nancy Stephens of the Manufacturers Association of Florida, and Bruce Batton, program manager at the training center.

For details or to RSVP, phone Kara Palmer at 521-3117.

Daily Local News - October 7, 2010

EMS lands project with Fla. college

CHESTER COUNTY, PA Education Management Solutions, or EMS, said Wednesday that [Tallahassee Community College](#) selected its simulation management and skills evaluation software and video recording technology to manage and operate the college's simulation center.

Future and current health care professionals are trained at the center in dental health, nursing, paramedic, radiologic technology and respiratory care.

The Exton-based EMS technology will streamline the center's operations by managing the scheduling, recording of simulation sessions, debriefings, inventor and data. The technology will enable the college to increase its enrollment capacity in health care programs.

EMS HELPS TALLAHASSEE CC BECOME A CUTTING-EDGE SIMULATION CENTER IN THE BIG BEND

Science & Education

PRESS RELEASE FROM: EDUCATION MANAGEMENT SOLUTIONS, INC.

(Exton, PA, October 5, 2010) Tallahassee Community College (TCC) has selected Education Management Solutions' (EMS) simulation management and skills evaluation software and video recording technology to manage and operate its 1,800 square foot simulation center. Future and current healthcare professionals are trained at the Center in Dental Health, EMT, Nursing, Paramedic, Radiologic Technology, and Respiratory.

Tallahassee Community College's vision for the Center is to provide the highest quality learning environment for all areas of healthcare education and training. Located in the heart of Tallahassee's medical corridor, the Center will expose the Tallahassee medical community to cutting-edge, multidisciplinary medical simulation technology.

The EMS technology will streamline the Center's operations by managing the scheduling, recording of simulation sessions, debriefings, inventory, and data. These technological advancements will boost the Center's credibility and enable the College to increase its enrollment capacity in healthcare programs.

About Education Management Solutions, Inc. (EMS) <http://www.EMS-works.com> Medical, nursing, and allied health schools, counseling programs, and hospitals use EMS' Arcadia suite of products to more efficiently manage clinical simulation centers, effectively evaluate learner performance, and digitally document simulated events. As the leader in simulation management technology since its founding in 1994, EMS offers complete turnkey solutions that include integrated software and hardware, design and planning, engineering, configuration, installation, training, and support.

Manufacturers looking for a rebound as economy improves

Dave Hodges

DEMOCRAT BUSINESS EDITOR

They aren't flashy and don't have high local profiles, and chances are you won't spot their products on the shelves at the corner store, but manufacturers in Leon County play a role in keeping the economic engine running.

And as the economy gradually improves, it will be in part because industrial companies of all shapes and sizes had a hand in the effort. Nancy Stephens, executive director of the Manufacturers Association of Florida, gave that encouragement this week at a meeting of the Capital Region Manufacturers Roundtable.

"The public is depending on manufacturers to pull us out of this down economy," she told the gathering at the Advanced Manufacturing Training Center at [Tallahassee Community College](#).

Through its programs, the MAF works to promote the state's industrial firms, help them identify new markets and maintain the business conditions that enable them to compete. The association's seventh annual Manufacturers Summit & Global Marketplace is Nov. 3-4 at the Hyatt Regency Orlando and includes facility tours, exhibits and a conference track on exporting.

Stephens notes that only 1 percent of U.S. businesses export their goods or services overseas, yet doing so is an important means of bringing business revenues back into this country. Along that same line, the MAF is encouraging the state's leaders to support greater investments in Florida's 14 seaports, the gateways to offshore markets.

The Roundtable's theme for the day was the impact of military spending on Northwest Florida. Jim Breitenfeld, manager of the Defense Support Initiative Task Force in the region, summarized the effect on Escambia, Santa Rosa, Okaloosa, Walton and Bay counties, where 220,000 work in some capacity in the defense industry.

Breitenfeld noted that the average salary for that work force is \$78,000 and total defense spending is \$6.1 billion in the region, which multiplies throughout the economy to have a \$15.5 billion impact annually.

By then, he had everyone's attention. Part of the appeal is the facilities themselves. Eglin Air Force Base, at 744 square miles, is bigger than the state of Rhode Island,

Breitenfeld noted. "It's critical for us to maximize the economic value of that chunk of land," he added.

With the military comes the hundreds of contractors, vendors and support firms attracted by opportunities here. They know that Florida is serious about supporting their industry.

"There is nobody that does defense better than Florida," said Breitenfeld, who has worked in economic development for 35 years. "That's a big reason why so many defense contractors are in Florida."

Sadly, we are losing one of our firms, Elbit Systems of America, in the weeks ahead and local officials are working to help those among the 192 employees who need to transition to new jobs. Despite that setback, other defense contractors are confident about their business prospects.

And they have their eye on the scientific studies, the research and the development work in Tallahassee in such areas as power systems, propulsion technology and high-performance materials development at Florida State University.

Beth Kirkland, executive director of the Economic Development Council of Tallahassee/Leon County, says Tallahassee is in the unique position of being able to originate some of the technologies the industry will rely on in the years ahead.

"It starts here," she added. "We are the next great technology, and the rest of Florida's Great Northwest is using today's technology."