

TALLAHASSEE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

In the News



January 20, 2010 - February 18, 2010



TALLAHASSEE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

In the News

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Our Opinion: Innovation Park can be a leader in job creation

With a new executive director at Innovation Park in place, it's time to replace heated discourse associated with Innovation Park's board with a clear, unified mission that will yield economic success stories for Leon County.

The creation of jobs is the top priority for state and local leaders, though as Gov. Rick Scott said Wednesday, job creation is going to be a challenge because it's the goal of the other 49 states, too.

Nonetheless, the Leon County Research and Development Authority, which oversees Innovation Park, can serve as a key component toward advancing that goal locally. Identifying tenants who will relocate at the park in southwest Leon County is key to creating manufacturing possibilities and supporting research opportunities that spawn business development.

The board faced intense public scrutiny last year after it was revealed that its former office manager, Shanna Lewis, stole more than \$647,000 from Innovation Park and used the money for lavish personal spending.

The early retirement of the park's previous executive director added to the turmoil among board members that overshadowed efforts to foster new businesses.

Catherine Kunst has started to work as the park's new executive director, and the board will be expanded to 11 members, including the addition of Leon County Commissioner Kristen Dozier. The seat held by longtime board member Bill Hebrock, who died this month, also must be filled.

Ms. Kunst and board members must work in sync to carry

out a strategic plan for the park, convincing taxpayers that the board's actions are transparent and its members and management are accountable. Key among its challenges will be to overcome the loss last fall of Elbit Systems, a longtime manufacturing entity operating in an 85,000-square-foot plant in Innovation Park and providing 192 jobs.

Board Chairman Philip Blank, a local attorney, offered several good ideas of where the authority needs to go.

One is to identify and act upon the needs of its more than 40 tenants so that Innovation Park is viewed as a place they want to "live, work and play."

Second, the authority must make sure that it is operating in a consistent and efficient manner and that its work is transparent to the public.

Finally, the authority needs to establish a short- and long-term strategic plan that can be accomplished.

It's particularly important that the authority reach out to Florida State and Florida A&M universities and [Tallahassee Community College](#) to provide those institutions with assistance to advance research and economic development opportunities.

By doing so, the Innovation Park authority, along with efforts led by the Chamber of Commerce, the Economic Development Council, Workforce Plus and local government, will help Leon County present a united front that can lead to a more competitive and vibrant economy.

Big Bend unemployment numbers drop

Reported by: Patty Santos

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. - Ask Marlene Cabrera how many job applications she's submitted over the last two years and she'll tell you she's lost count.

"I get up every morning and I go look for work at factories, and construction sites, wherever" she said.

The Gadsden County resident may have had better luck than others across the state.

Recently released numbers show Wakulla, Gadsden and Leon Counties saw a decrease in unemployment numbers; a .1 percent drop in Gadsden County, a .4 percent drop in Leon and a .3 percent drop in Wakulla according to Workforce Plus.

"We are listing new jobs on our system everyday so we are seeing those opportunities happen and that's what we want."

Gadsden County residents are looking forward to about 400 jobs that will soon be available at a new horse track and poker facility in Gretna.

Many of the jobs won't be available until later in the year but people are already submitting applications through Jobsforgretna.com.

Rose Hall recently found a job; she said it's a good sign.

"You have to put in hard work to get something out of it," said Hall.

Cabrera says her limited English speaking skills have forced her to take tutoring classes in hopes of improving her resume.

Governor Rick Scott spoke on the new unemployment figures.

"Today's report of a 12 percent unemployment rate for Florida in December means that more than 1.1 million Floridians are jobless. This is not acceptable," said Scott. "The numbers reaffirm my commitment to getting Florida back to work, and prove that we must put job creation first by making Florida the best place to do business."

Workforce Plus just announced it will be recruiting 50 people for information technology related jobs next Tuesday and Wednesday at [Tallahassee Community College](http://TallahasseeCommunityCollege).

New exam an aid in leap to college

By LINDSAY PETERSON

THE TAMPA TRIBUNE

Florida's colleges are in the midst of a major change designed to create a smoother path for students between high school and higher education, particularly the ones who stumble because they lack basic skills.

It's a new kind of placement test for students entering the state's open-access colleges where half of those coming directly from high school are held back until they pass remedial reading, writing or math classes.

"We know this can be very discouraging and cause them to stop right there," said Judith Bilsky, vice chancellor of the Florida College System. This new process "will allow us to customize and streamline instruction."

It's called the PERT, Postsecondary Education Readiness Test, and state officials say it differs from the current process in some fundamental ways:

- The questions are based on what state high school and college teachers say students need most to succeed in college.
- A diagnostic section of the test will tell students exactly what skills they're lacking, so they can focus their remediation efforts on just those areas.
- High schools could use it to figure out where individual students are weak and target those areas before they graduate.

It's part of what state Education Commissioner Eric Smith calls "fuzzing the line" between high school and college, Bilsky said.

In that spirit, the Department of Education assembled a group of high school and college teacher from across the state to work with the testing company, McCann Associates, to develop the questions.

"It's this effort to get everybody on the same page, so expectations in secondary and postsecondary are the same thing, so there's less disconnect, more cooperation, more shared understanding of what students need," said Alicia Vitale, testing coordinator at St. Petersburg College.

"The content, rigor and focus was really on those things they felt were most essential," Bilsky said.

The new test means a major change for college administrators as they switch over from the placement tests they've been using, said Pat Rinard, associate vice president for enrollment management at St. Petersburg College.

"We'll have some short-term hiccups," he said. "But the long-run benefits will far outweigh the pain. The whole point is to help students get ready for college faster."

Three of the state's 28 "colleges" traditionally known as community colleges are using the PERT. They are [Tallahassee Community College](#), Florida State College at Jacksonville and Miami Dade College.

The rest are required to start by this summer, with the diagnostic portion of the test scheduled to be implemented later in the year.

Students who take it won't notice much difference, Rinard said. But if the process works as officials envision, they will be much more likely to make through college, he said.

The way the process works now, a student enrolling for a degree at a state college who hasn't taken the SAT or ACT takes a test to demonstrate reading, writing and math skills. If the student fails in any one of the three, he or she has to take a semester-long remedial class. Students have to pay tuition for these classes but don't get any college credit.

Likewise, the PERT will assess students' basic skills using 90 multiple-choice questions developed by the Florida teachers.

Unlike the current system, however, when a student does poorly in either reading, writing or math, he is directed to take another test to diagnose specifically where his problems are. If he stumbled over quadratic equations, for instance, he could take a short class or go to a tutor to bone up on that alone.

"This is going to save students time and money," Rinard said.

The colleges have yet to create those miniremedial classes, he said, estimating that it could take a couple of years. There's nothing to stop students, however, from hiring a tutor or studying on their own to fill in basic skills gaps.

Another long-term goal is to move the testing process directly into the high schools.

State law already requires the high schools to make college readiness tests available to students who make less than top scores on the Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test.

New exam an aid in leap to college....

continued

In some areas, Pinellas County, for instance, college officials go into the high schools to give the tests. In others, high school students have to go to the nearest college to take it.

Bilsky said the state was working with the Division of Public Schools in the education department to try to set up PERT labs in public high schools statewide.

"This is significant," she said. "Not only can we tell them if they're ready for college, but this will tell them what the students need to get ready."

Tallahassee Democrat - January 23, 2011

Blended Lives activities set to start tomorrow

By Althemese Barnes

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

Goodwood Museum and Gardens and John Gilmore Riley Center/Museum will join with the Leon County School District to present the 10th Blended Lives program on Monday, Jan. 24. The five-day program opens with a forum for 11th-graders and the public in the Carriage House at Goodwood from 9 a.m. to noon.

Blended Lives is designed to educate both youths and adults about our community's history and heritage. The vision is to explore the powerful roots of our collective history and instill a deeper understanding and appreciation for history and a heritage that otherwise might go untold.

A panel of historians, local scholars and citizens will present on Florida and the Civil War — Impact and Participation with moderator attorney Charles Hobbs and panel members: Dr. Anthony Dixon, FAMU professor of History and Riley assistant director and archivist; Jarvis Rosier, Sgt. Major Retired and coordinator of the USCT Riley Museum Re-enactment project; Chris Ellrich, Civil War re-enactor and Natural Bridge Historical Society; Mary Laura Bragg, history teacher, John Paul II Catholic High School; and Joshua Youngblood, archives historian, Florida Memory Program, State Library and Archives of Florida. The theme is in keeping with the Sesquicentennial, 150th anniversary of the Civil War.

From 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Tuesday, Thursday and Friday,

Jan. 25, 27 and 28, fourth-graders will visit each site to participate in activities that breathe life into Civil War history.

This year's Blended Lives program honors the first chairman of the Blended Lives Committee and longtime supporter, John E. Lawrence, former principal of Godby High School and retired Department of Education bureau chief, along with his wife, Virginia Lawrence, former principal (retired) of Florida A&M Developmental Research School and Leon County Schools educator and administrator.

By tradition, at 6 p.m. at [Tallahassee Community College](#) on Monday, Jan. 31, the partners will join with the college to unveil the Black History Month calendar. The calendar is also paying tribute to the work of John E. Lawrence, a community servant who has helped champion many worthwhile causes and serves as a volunteer with numerous organizations.

Participants will increase their knowledge of the geography of Florida battles, the impact of the war, the role that Florida played and varying ideologies that prevailed, some of which are still in debate today. A Civil War exhibit will be on display at the Riley Museum through May 20, and at the regional airport during the month of February, highlighting the role of the United States Colored Troops.

Campus Notes

FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY

Black Law Students Association named regional chapter of year

The Black Law Students Association at FSU's law school has been named 2010-2011 Regional Chapter of the Year by the Southern Region of the National Black Law Students Association. BLSA President G.C. Murray and Vice President Lorraine Young accepted the award at a convention in Raleigh, N.C., earlier this month. The honor is given to the chapter that has made the greatest difference in its community and has improved the quality of its law school by enhancing social awareness and activism. Florida State's association was selected from more than 40 chapters at law schools in 10 states.

Gross to be next ALISE president: Professor Melissa Gross will be the next president of the Association for Library and Information Science Education, an organization that serves as the intellectual home of faculty in library and information science graduate programs throughout North America. Gross, a professor in FSU's College of Communication and Information's School of Library and Information Studies (SLIS), was elected vice president/president-elect by the association membership and will assume the presidency next year. ALISE serves 725 individual members and more than 60 institutional members, primarily in the United States and Canada.

Risk Management and Insurance program ranks high in several categories: The Risk Management and Insurance program in FSU's College of Business is ranked the fifth largest undergraduate program of its kind in the nation and the second largest graduate program by Business Insurance, a weekly online publication for insurance professionals. The publication also ranks FSU's program No. 2 in graduating students at the master's level. The program has a current enrollment of 142 undergraduate and 64 graduate students. RMI also offers industry experience to students through the Insurance Society at FSU, a student organization that hosts guest speakers, corporate tours, social events and "Insurance Days" — the latter a massive recruiting event.

Middle East Center hosting Turkish Symposium: The FSU Middle East Center is hosting a Turkish Symposium Feb. 10-11. There will be speakers from nine American universities, as well as several others from Turkey, giving presentations on Turkish culture, history and politics.

The symposium will be held in the Center for Global Engagement. It gets under way at 7:30 p.m. Feb. 10 and continues from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Feb. 11. It is free and open to the public.

FLORIDA A&M UNIVERSITY

Activist, author Powell keynote speaker at Black History Convocation: Activist, author of 10 books and public speaker Kevin Powell will deliver the keynote address at the annual FAMU Black History Convocation. It takes place at 10:10 a.m. Feb. 17 at Jake Gaither Gymnasium. A product of extreme poverty, welfare, fatherlessness and a single mother-led household, Powell is a native of Jersey City, N.J., and was educated at Rutgers University. His newest book is "Open Letters to America."

Small-business forum coming Jan. 27: FAMU'S Small Business Development Center, in partnership with the Florida Office of Small Business Advocate, will host a Small Business Issues and Recommendations Forum from 9 a.m. to noon Thursday. It will take place on the second floor at City Hall. The purpose of the forum is to discuss ways to improve the environment for small and medium-sized business expansion in Florida. For more information, contact FAMU's Small Business Development Center at (850) 561-2394.

National Alumni Association convention scheduled for May: The annual convention of FAMU's National Alumni Association is scheduled for May 18-22 in Orlando. This year's theme is "Back to the Basics: Energizing that Ole Rattler Spirit." With more than 60 chapters located throughout the country, the FAMU-NAA has provided more than \$1 million in scholarship money and other financial support to the university.

TALLAHASSEE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

College hosts Chinese students, faculty: President Obama wasn't the only one welcoming guests from China this past week. On Wednesday and Thursday, TCC hosted a group of Chinese high school students and four faculty members from Tianjin Foreign Studies University. The students and faculty worked with TCC's Model UN program and participated in a United Nations simulation. TCC has partnered with TFSU in faculty exchanges for the past four years. Lucy Tian, who previously taught at TCC, was one of the faculty members from China.

Meet the Honorees in TCC's 2011 African-American History Calendar

Reporter: TCC Release

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. (January 28, 2011) –

Today, [Tallahassee Community College](#) released the names of the 19 individuals who will be honored on Monday, January 31 when the College unveils its eleventh annual Cherry Alexander African-American History Calendar.

The 7 p.m. ceremony, to be held in Turner Auditorium, will kick off TCC's month-long celebration of Black History Month.

Turner Auditorium is located inside the College's Fine and Performing Arts Center.

Each year, the calendar showcases African-Americans who have made significant contributions in Leon and surrounding counties. The 2011 calendar theme is "Serving and Making a Difference: Civil War to Present."

The 2011 calendar honorees are: Mrs. Anita Davis, Dr. Charles Evans, Ms. Beulah Gregory, Mrs. Priscilla Hawkins, Ms. Brenda Holt, Ms. Annie Johnson, Mrs. Lillian Johnson, Mr. John E. Lawrence, Mrs. Patrice Minor-Floyd, Dr. Anne Richardson Gayles-Felton, Elder F.R. Rush, Ms. D. Edwina Stephens, Ms. Shirley Washington and Sheriff Morris Young.

Youth honorees include Breyon Love, L. Bradford Johnson and Ms. Jaquell Lawson.

Military honorees are Pvt. 1st Class Clinton Wooten and Colonel Willie Jenkins.

In addition to a bio on the honorees, the calendar will include key dates in African-American history, as well as a special recognition of and thank you to TCC administrators who have been instrumental in supporting the annual calendar event.

Now in its eleventh year, the calendar will be distributed to 20,000 youth via schools, churches and other community institutions.

Prior to the calendar unveiling ceremony, a 5:45 p.m. reception will be held in the Fine and Performing Arts Center to recognize the calendar honorees.

WTXL- January 28, 2011

TCC hosts Skills Fair event

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. - [Tallahassee Community College](#) students walked away with useful tools for their future careers.

This was the first time TCC has hosted a Skills Fair event to familiarize students with different resources around campus.

The event was held on Friday from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Student Union building.

Various booths were setup with career counseling, advisement, mental health services, online learning, and also library services.

Professors shared tips on writing, reading, math, science and student technology support.

Path unclear but hopeful for grads

By Ashley Ames

DEMOCRAT STAFF WRITER

The recent and future graduates of Florida A&M University circled the booths of 60 businesses, clutching black folders containing resumes and practicing their handshake on the company representatives.

All were hoping to discover what the next step in their lives would be. Would it begin here, at Wednesday's career expo at the Civic Center? Would it be nursing school, or some other form of higher education? Was there any way to know?

The current rates of unemployment — 9 percent nationally, 12 percent statewide — are the numbers that the class of 2011 is facing, with Florida's unemployment rate almost triple what it was four years ago.

For recent graduates and soon-to-be grads about to enter the economy, the concept of finding a job among such statistics can be daunting.

And, according to Christy Crump, this is especially true if they are unprepared.

Crump, who founded a personal development and training company in Tallahassee in 2008, said that many of the college students she encounters lack the skills to simply get an interview for the job they want.

"My No. 1 tip for people entering the job force is get the education you didn't get in school," she said, adding that many times, students have had a great education, but no basic knowledge of professionalism.

"If you are looking for a job, make sure that your resume and cover letter appeal to a large audience," she advised. "Interview well. Make sure you are dressed appropriately. Make eye contact, and research the company."

Florida State University, [Tallahassee Community College](#) and Florida A&M all have career centers that are open for students and alumni.

All three offer mock interviews, workshops, and resume and portfolio critiquing. Each school additionally has an online pool of employers that can access submitted resumes and schedule interviews.

Dolores Dean, director of the FAMU career center, encourages students — even those just starting school — to utilize the career resources on campus.

"Take advantage and get involved with your career center. Get your foot in the door," she said. "A lot of students think that there are no jobs, but there are jobs for students that are aggressive and persistent in their job hunt."

Jeff Garis, director of the FSU career center, said the center can also help narrow a job search.

"To get something, you have to know what you are looking for," he said.

The career placement coordinator at TCC, Christy Mantzanas, encourages students to network. "It is so important and key for students to go out and meet professionals," she said.

TCC works closely with local businesses, connecting students to potential employers in the area.

"We believe Tallahassee is a great place," she said, adding that she wants students to not only think of it as where they go to school, but also as a place to build a life. "We're not only promoting students to the community, but also the community to the students."

All three schools also host job fairs, a resource Garis said is great but should be accompanied with advising.

"We want students to do both. Yes, attend recruiting events, but also develop a professional career with the career center," he said.

But there's always the question of the future.

For Daniel Amis, who graduated from FAMU in December, that would be determined by a certain time frame. "My outlook on it is that you have to have a backup plan," he said, "If I don't have a job by a certain point, I've already taken steps to apply to grad school."

Shellie Washington, a senior at FAMU, was at Wednesday's job fair to test the waters, trying to find a company that was a good fit. She was hopeful about the experience, and her own next step.

"If it doesn't help me find a job," she said, "at least I'll have information about other companies."

That was the primary goal of most of the attendees, who

Path unclear but hopeful for grads...

continued

could talk with the 60 different companies, including Disney, Pepsico and the CIA. The steady if sparse traffic in the center showed that the students were willing to try.

Rondarius Roberts, also a senior at FAMU, said tackling the next step and the economy wasn't something that was bringing him down; in fact, he was hopeful about the times. "I'm not frustrated," he said. "Change is the only constant. It's a new era."

Along with the Internet, the last decade has also brought the concept of "going green," which could lead to more jobs. The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics has launched a new initiative to collect information on green jobs, and just what the impact of those jobs on the future economy and job market will be.

For example, the American Wind Energy Association reported that 85,000 Americans are employed in the wind-power industry and related fields. Research is still forthcoming, but this "new era" of technology and in green fields could have many, if different, opportunities for up-and-coming grads.

The BLS also reported a growing need for logisticians, those responsible for working out the details of large events like shuttle launches or relief organizations. According to the BLS, 2009 saw 100,400 logisticians employed nationwide, making an average salary of \$68,000. Employment of logisticians is expected to grow much faster than average between 2008 and 2018.

The Internet has actually made finding and creating jobs much easier, Roberts said, mentioning online companies and job applications. He said that he hoped to go to law school some time in the future, after securing a job and saving some money.

"I'm not afraid of change," he said with a smile.

Campus Notes

TALLAHASSEE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

TCC unveils 11th African-American history calendar

Nineteen individuals will be honored by TCC at 7 p.m. today when the college unveils its 11th annual Cherry Alexander African-American History Calendar. The ceremony, to be held in Turner Auditorium, will kick off TCC's monthlong celebration of Black History Month. Each year, the calendar showcases African-Americans who have made significant contributions in Leon and surrounding counties. The 2011 calendar theme is "Serving and Making a Difference: Civil War to Present."

Nursing graduates' first-time pass rate near 97 percent: TCC's latest class of nursing graduates had a pass rate of 96.72 percent for first-time testers, which represents 59 new registered nurses. The NCLEX-RN is a state board exam that all nursing graduates must complete in order to become registered nurses. Those interested in learning more about the nursing programs at TCC should visit www.tcc.fl.edu.

FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY

Piquero honored for contributions to criminal justice field: Criminology professor Alex Piquero, who ranks No. 1 in the nation for scholarly contributions to his field, has won the 2011 Academy Fellow Award from the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences. Piquero's No. 1 ranking appears in a study published in a recent, special issue of the *Journal of Criminal Justice Education* that examines the performances of U.S. criminology programs and faculty. Piquero is FSU's Gordon P. Waldo Professor of Criminology. He also serves as co-editor of the *Journal of Quantitative Criminology*.

University included in Carnegie Foundation's Community Engagement classification: The Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching, an independent policy and

research center that supports "needed transformations in American education," has announced that it selected FSU for inclusion in its prestigious Community Engagement classification. The honor is bestowed upon academic institutions that demonstrate a mission, culture, leadership, resources and practices that support "dynamic and noteworthy community engagement" as well as exemplary programs to promote civic engagement. FSU was one of 115 institutions of higher learning to receive the Carnegie Foundation's engagement classification this year.

Language and linguistics professor earns fellowship: Irene Zanini-Cordi, an assistant professor in FSU's Department of Modern Languages and Linguistics, has been awarded a National Endowment for the Humanities fellowship. Her current research focuses on women's writing in 18th- and 19th-century Italy, especially in letters, diaries and early novels. The NEH fellowship, which includes funding in the amount of \$50,400, will enable her to conduct research in her native Italy for her second book manuscript, titled "Fashioning Italian Women, Fashioning a Nation: Sociability and Women's Identity (1780s-1860s)."

FLORIDA A&M UNIVERSITY

Levitt elected to American Law Institute: Jeremy Levitt, associate dean of FAMU's law school, has been elected to the American Law Institute. Founded in 1923, the ALI is the leading independent organization in the United States producing scholarly work to clarify, modernize and otherwise improve the law. There are about 4,000 members of the ALI, which includes lawyers, judges and law professors of the highest qualification. Levitt is a public international lawyer and political scientist with expertise in the law of the use of force, human rights law, African politics, democratization, state dynamics and regional collective security. He is the author or editor of four books and numerous scholarly articles.

TCC Honors Leaders with 2011 Black History Calendar

By Bianca Salvant

STAFF WRITER, THE FAMUAN

Drummers exuded energy, drama and chemistry with accompanying dancers in the center. Attendees ate, drank and waited for the introduction of the [Tallahassee Community College](#) 2011 Black History Month calendar.

The purpose of the calendar was to pay tribute to influential blacks in the Tallahassee community.

"In the last 50 years there have been many great changes in our community thanks to the African American people," said Nancy Miller, Tallahassee-Leon County planning commissioner.

Cherry Hall Alexander, former director of library services and coordinator of the Black History Month at TCC, introduced the idea of a Black History Calendar.

"Without her leadership, the calendar would not have become a reality," said Eugene Lamb, the chair member of the TCC District Board of Trustees. "It shows how blacks have impacted this community greatly."

Students and supporters arrived from all over the city for the celebration. Performances included a saxophone solo by FAMU student Bernard Jackson and inspirational dance by Steps of Faith Dancers.

The 2011 theme of "Serving and Making a Difference: Civil War to Present" pays homage to veterans. This year, 19 individuals were recognized. Among those recognized was FAMU's Student Government Association VP Breyon Love and FAMU alumnus Bradford Johnson.

Johnson obtained his bachelor's degree in agribusiness with a minor in economics. A Tallahassee native, he served as regional co-chair of the Florida Cares Mentoring Initiative, member of the Leon County Chapter of the FAMU Alumni Association, Big Bend Hospice Community Outreach Committee, Capital City Tiger Bay Club and Silver Star Lodge #61.

"We have to make sure our history never dies," said Lt. Gov. of Fla. Jennifer Carroll. "We have a lot to be thankful for; a lot in our history to be proud of. We have a challenge and a charge to step in the footprints and to create more for the future."

Alice Nied named Dean of Health Care Professions at TCC

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. (February 2, 2011) –

Dr. Alice Nied, currently the Director of Nursing at [Tallahassee Community College](#), has been named the College's new Dean of Health Care Professions.

Nied has been TCC's Director of Nursing since June 2008, which followed a stint in the same position at Florida State College at Jacksonville (February 2006-June 2008).

"This is a very exciting time for our division, with the construction of the Ghazvini Center for Health Care Education, and I'm thrilled to be a part of it," said Nied.

"I am very grateful to the TCC Administration for the confidence they have shown in me."

From 1995-2006, Nied served in two different capacities at Highland Community College in Freeport, Ill. There she served as Director of Nursing from November 1995-June 2003. In July 2003, she was promoted to associate dean of the Division of Science and Health, a position she held until leaving for Florida State College at Jacksonville.

Nied's 40 years of experience in the nursing field also includes six years as a faculty member at Indiana Vocational Technical College (1988-94) and various roles in public schools and in health care facilities.

"Alice is a perfect choice to lead our health care

professions forward," said TCC President Jim Murdaugh. "Under her leadership as Director of Nursing, the latest class of nursing graduates boasted a 96.72% pass rate for first-time test takers on the state board exam, which is required prior to graduates becoming registered nurses. That made TCC's pass rate the highest among the area's colleges and universities.

"In her new role, she will bring the same commitment to quality that makes TCC the education of choice for many students."

Nied graduated with a diploma in nursing from Chicago's St. Bernard's Schools of Nursing in 1971. She later earned a BLS in liberal studies from Purdue University in 1986 and an MSN in nursing administration from Indiana University in 1994. Most recently, she completed her doctor of nursing practice at the University of North Florida in 2009.

Nied has served on a number of committees and has been active in numerous organizations during her professional career. She currently represents the Division of Health Care Professions on the TCC Foundation's Health Care Provision and Excellence Campaign, which will support TCC's expanding health care programs by seeking investments for facilities, state-of-the-art technology, student support services and scholarships.

TCC's Riley Museum Archive Selected as Black History Month Festival Honoree

TCC News Release

Tallahassee, FL - The [Tallahassee Community College](#) Riley Museum Archive has been selected as a 2011 Black History Month Festival honoree.

The announcement came during Tuesday's kickoff ceremonies to Tallahassee's month-long Black History Month Festival.

The festival is a unique month-long series of activities that provide enriching cross-cultural experiences for adults and youngsters alike. Tuesday's ceremonies featured Florida's Lieutenant Governor Jennifer Carroll as guest speaker.

Born in 1857, John G. Riley distinguished himself as a businessman, educator and community leader until his death in 1954. In 1877, he began his first teaching job at a school in Wakulla County. By 1881, he was teaching at Lincoln Academy.

In 1996, as a way of honoring his efforts, a group of Tallahassee citizens established The Riley Historic House Museum and Research Center, a landmark dedicated to African-American history and culture.

In 2005, TCC and the Riley Historic House Museum entered a joint relationship to form the TCC Riley Museum Archive as way of adding value to the academic experience at the College. The mission of the TCC Riley Museum Archive is to lead efforts in acquiring, preserving

and educating students and the community about African-American experiences otherwise forgotten by history.

"Quite often, exposure to an historical archive at a community college for first- and second-year college students is rare," said Torrio Osborne, Archive Faculty Liaison, "but utilizing primary sources in an archive can be a fun way to learn and enrich learning beyond their studies."

The special collection of African-American papers, documents, photographs and manuscripts are available to faculty seeking to bolster assignments through creative projects, such as research papers, film, video, photography, art and theatre. Additionally, while developing project concepts, students have an opportunity to sharpen their critical and analytical skills on themes across humanities, history, social sciences and arts curricula.

The TCC Riley Museum Archive can be found on the second floor of the TCC Library. It currently features 36 collections that range from locally themed and place-based materials about Tallahassee to regional Florida History from Emancipation through the Civil Rights Era.

Campus Notes

FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY

Professor's photo book named one of 2010's best

FSU art professor John Mann's photographic narrative, "Thinner Air," was recently listed as one of the Best Photo Books of 2010 by Photo-eye Magazine. Though no stranger to art-book making, "Thinner Air" is Mann's first commercially produced edition. The book was edited entirely in the computer, then uploaded and printed in Iceland. Mann teaches advanced graduate and undergraduate photography courses at FSU. He is currently working on a book that pairs new photographs with original engravings of Arctic explorers of the 19th century.

Noted author offers free lecture at Center for Global Engagement: Pulitzer Prize finalist and author Bill Bishop will give a free public lecture from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Monday at FSU's Center for Global Engagement (110 S. Woodward Ave.). Bishop, the author of "The Big Sort: How the Clustering of Like-Minded America is Tearing Us Apart," will explain the demographic trends behind the phenomenon of "The Big Sort" and its relevance to our current civic and political challenges. Bishop and his wife, Julie Arderly, co-edit *The Daily Yonder*, a web-based publication (dailyyonder.com) covering rural America. A book signing will begin at 6:30 p.m.

College of Business unveils latest learning lab: FSU's College of Business last week unveiled its latest learning laboratory. Made possible by a \$125,000 gift from Stephen C. Leonard, the newly renovated sales laboratory boasts eight large role-play rooms, each equipped with state-of-the-art skills assessment tools, including a recording system that allows for simultaneous live viewing and digital recording of sales role-playing. The gift also provides the opportunity for annual software upgrades and license renewals. Leonard, who graduated from FSU in 1979 with a degree in marketing, is president of Team 1 Orthopaedics Inc., which markets, sells and distributes orthopedic medical supplies throughout Florida and Georgia.

FLORIDA A&M UNIVERSITY

Jones Hall renovation celebration Wednesday: FAMU has scheduled an official ceremony at 12:30 p.m. Wednesday to celebrate newly renovated Jones Hall, home to the departments of Biology, Chemistry and

Physics. The \$12.8-million renovation of 64-year-old Jones Hall included a complete interior renovation and modernization of all spaces. Jones Hall is named after Everett Booker Jones, who was a professor in the Department of Natural Sciences. He was the first president of the FAMU Alumni Association and organized the College Wits, the first literary society for college men at FAMU. The ceremony is open to the public.

TALLAHASSEE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Nursing director named new dean of Health Care Professions: Alice Nied, TCC's director of nursing since June 2008, has been named the college's new dean of Health Care Professions. She has 40 years of experience in the nursing field, including various roles in higher education, public schools and in health care facilities. She currently represents the Division of Health Care Professions on the TCC Foundation's Health Care Provision and Excellence Campaign, which will support TCC's expanding health care programs by seeking investments for facilities, state-of-the-art technology, student support services and scholarships.

Spring Break museum trip to NYC planned: TCC is planning a New York City museum field trip during Spring Break. Julie Baroody, a faculty member in the college's Division of Communications and Humanities, will lead the trip, which departs Tallahassee on March 6 and returns March 10. While students can earn one credit hour, it is open to non-students. The cost is \$610 plus one credit hour tuition, based on residency status. Other expenses include bag check, museum entries, subway pass and food. Seats are available on a first-come, first-serve basis, and a \$300 non-refundable deposit is due as soon as possible. The balance of \$310 is due Feb. 18. For more information, contact Baroody by phone, (850) 201-8713, or e-mail baroody@tcc.fl.edu.

TCC students achieve 100-percent pass rate on radiologic technologist exam: Seventeen students who graduated from TCC's Radiologic Technology program in December have passed the American Registry of Radiologic Technologist exam. According to Becky Daley, Radiologic Technology chair, this is the fifth time the program has achieved a 100 percent pass rate on the exam.

TFF Digi-Explorers: Inspiring the next generation of filmmakers

Ivette Marques

READER SUBMITTED

The Tallahassee Film Festival is always looking for new ways to get the community involved in the filmmaking process and adding value and culture to our area. As part of its commitment to education, TFF is introducing a new educational component specifically designed for middle school students. The Digi-Explorers Script to Screen one-day workshop will give students an introduction to digital video production.

TFF has partnered with TCCs Division of Technology and FSUs College of Motion Picture Arts to bring this event to life. The workshop will take place on Saturday, March 19 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at [Tallahassee Community College](#).

Were thrilled to introduce this new educational program as part of the 2011 festival, said Ben McCune, TFFs Education Director. This is a great opportunity for students to learn about the film industry and get hands-on experience by creating their very own film.

Open to middle school students in Leon county and surrounding areas, the workshop will include topics such as story structure, writing, direction, camera operation, and sound editing. The students will create a one-minute film and the winning project will be recognized and appear on the TFF website.

The film industry isnt just about being in front of the camera; there are people behind the scenes who make movie magic happen, added McCune. I hope the students walk away from this experience with an understanding and appreciation of the process and a new passion for filmmaking.

The workshop costs \$25 per participant and includes materials and lunch. There are also limited scholarships available. Applications are available online at www.tallahasseeffilmfestival.com and are due by February 25. Advanced registration is required and participation is limited. For more information please contact education@tallahasseeffilmfestival.com.

Education leaders organize task force

By Ashley Ames

DEMOCRAT STAFF WRITER

Friday marked the first education leaders summit in Leon County, where the presidents of Florida A&M, Florida State and Tallahassee Community College met with Leon County Superintendent Jackie Pons to discuss the future of education and organize a task force to address their mutual challenges and interests.

It was the first meeting of its kind in Leon County, and the task force will mark an unprecedented collaboration between the three institutions of higher education and Leon County Schools.

The leaders discussed what would be on the upcoming task force's agenda, which included the sharing of resources such as land and energy as well as having an alliance between the college students and the public schools, and talking about each school's initiatives.

Pons said that with fine arts programs disappearing as a result of budget cuts, college mentors and volunteers could work with local schools to keep alive interest in subjects like music and theater. Pons emphasized that such efforts would go both ways, mentioning access to land that Leon County might have and could provide access to should one of the colleges need it.

Eric Barron, FSU's president, endorsed the proposal and said it would work in conjunction with FSU's "engaged scholar" society.

"We are working very hard to promote the level of

activities that our students have outside the classroom," he said. "I think that your point on volunteers would fit perfectly with that notion of providing opportunities to our students to be more engaged in doing things that are valuable outside the classroom."

FAMU President James H. Ammons said, "We should be the model for the nation. Leon County Schools should be A schools with all of the brain power and the resources that we have in this community.

"We want the students in Leon County public schools to continue to excel, and we want our students to be better because of the experiences they've had. And if those experiences are showing achievement, then I think we've got a chance to have a great relationship."

Jim Murdaugh, president of TCC, also supported the plan for the area's colleges to join forces with the school district.

"I think the notion of us collectively being able to put together strategies is really the way to go," Murdaugh said.

The meeting ended with each promising to contribute at least one member to the task force to address in depth the ideas brought up at the summit. The task force is scheduled to begin meeting in the spring.

Job retraining opens doors

Returning to school to learn new skills a trend nationally

By Elizabeth M. Mack

DEMOCRAT STAFF WRITER

After 10 months of being unemployed and sending out more than 300 copies of her resume, Courtney Hinson said she'd had enough.

The director of sales at Cabot Lodge on Monroe Street, Hinson was laid off after new management came in at the hotel.

"I loved my job, being in sales and networking," she said. "But everywhere I applied, I was either overqualified or there was a hiring freeze. So I decided that it was time that I returned to school."

Returning to school and retraining for a better employment situation is a national trend, said Kimberly Moore, CEO of employment service Workforce Plus. Area training providers see as much in the local demand for courses and vocational education.

"When a person finds themselves unemployed, their initial approach is to find other employment," she said. "But then after some time and they don't find a job, education is the next step. They're hopeful that another opportunity will come along by enrolling in school."

Individuals looking to transition to other fields have many training options in Tallahassee.

Hinson started in the cosmetology program at Lively Technical Center in January.

Lively offers 32 programs, said Woody Hildebrandt, principal. He believes the institute is a popular choice because it's short-term and inexpensive.

On average, programs at Lively range from \$3,000 to \$3,500, Hildebrandt said. Most of the programs take less than two years to complete, but the majority are one year. Once they finish the training, the students have certifications in such fields as aviation, automotive technology, nursing and the metal industry.

Hildebrandt said enrollment has increased three-fold in the last four years. Last year the institute served about 2,500 students. He believes this year that number will increase.

During these economic times "schools like Lively serve a tremendous purpose," Hildebrandt said.

"There are jobs waiting in the fields with the programs that we offer," he said. "We are constantly staying on the cutting edge; as the need changes, we change the programs offered."

John Anderson started in the electronics technology program in 2009. He will finish soon and is about to start a job with the city of Tallahassee.

Anderson was in retail. But when business started to slow down, his hours were cut until eventually he was removed from the schedule, he explained.

"After that, I decided to get training to get a better job through learning a trade," he said. "This was definitely worth it."

TCC offerings

[Tallahassee Community College](#) also offers short-term courses that end with certifications, but there are long-term programs that can lead to further education.

Alonda Hill is a student at TCC pursuing degrees in business management and early childhood development. Before enrolling, she worked at child-care centers for 12 years. Going to school for her was the only way to improve her employment situation.

Since becoming a student at TCC three and half years ago, she has co-opened an event-planning business, and she is pursuing the startup of a child-care facility of her own.

"If I had not come to school, I would be at a standstill," she said. "I would have been stagnant in my employment. I know I am bettering my situation, and I'm reaching my goals."

Some of TCC's most popular programs are in allied health.

"When people think of health care centers, they think nurses and doctors. But there are other positions people don't think about, like office positions," said Carol Easley, director of allied health at TCC.

Job retraining opens doors...

continued

Aside from its nursing assistant and pharmacy technician programs, there are the medical administrative specialist and national health record specialist programs.

TCC's national record specialist program will qualify its students to sit for the exam to become a certified health records specialist, Easley said. And the job possibilities through the nursing assistant program "are booming."

Other programs at TCC, such as its Tech@Night program, prepare students for computer-related certification.

Beverly Smith, program coordinator for the IT programs and workforce development, said the college sees students from all backgrounds and situations.

"It's about 50-50 job searchers who are coming in for retraining and people who are just looking to develop a new skill for their own business," she said.

There are 12 workshops offered at \$300 each — teaching programs such as Dreamweaver, the Adobe software suite, Desktop Publisher, HTML and Flash.

The web-design workshops are usually where they see people seeking a career change, she added.

Other short-term programs in Tallahassee include the North Florida Cosmetology Institute Inc. and the Real Estate School Inc.

Kim Matthews, co-founder of NFCl, said about 80 percent of its students have lost their jobs and are looking to change careers.

"I think in this economy, it's been really hard on people, so retraining is the best idea," she said. "People are always getting their hair done, especially women. And doing hair is something a computer is never going to take over."

The program takes about 11 months to complete if attended full time, and costs \$11,550, Matthews said. And there's financial aid available for those who qualify.

Matthews said there's been about a 30-percent increase in enrollment, which she believes is due to the economy.

However, the Real Estate School Inc. hasn't seen a significant change, according to Edward O'Donnell, president.

"When the real-estate market comes back, I believe we will see an increase," he said. "In past recessions, enrollment has been higher, but this has been the deepest recession the nation has seen. It's scared a lot of people from the real-estate industry."

Real estate is attractive because "people can be their own boss," he said.

The real-estate program is 63 hours, which takes about three weeks to complete and qualifies the student to take the state exam, O'Donnell said.

Enrollment up at Keiser

Some of the long-term programs, such as those at Keiser University, are seeing an increase in enrollment.

Kelli Lane, associate vice chancellor of media and public relations at Keiser, said enrollment has increased 12 percent. And according to a survey taken last year, 34 percent of the students would classify themselves as training for a new job.

While Keiser does not offer certificate or diploma programs, all its degrees are career-focused, she said. And students tend to finish a lot faster because the university is year-round, and the scheduling is vastly different from the traditional university.

"We offer day, night, online and hybrid scheduling (a combination of online and on-campus) with one class per month, allowing students to work full or part time and meet family obligations while enrolled," Lane said. "Traditional institutions typically offer four courses per semester. We do as well, but only one per month rather than four simultaneously."

Keiser serves about 19,000 students at its 15 campuses throughout the state, Lane said, with 550 students at its Tallahassee campus. There are 36 associate degrees, 25 bachelor's degrees, 10 master's degrees and one doctoral degree offered at the university.

The fastest growing program is health care.

Job retraining opens doors....

Joseph Gabovitz is a former Marine with a bachelor's degree in aeronautics. He worked in aircraft maintenance and was laid off twice, most recently last September.

After losing his job, Gabovitz became a stay-at-home dad. But he realized that living on one income was difficult. He wanted to re-enter the workforce, but he also wanted job security. To do that, he knew he needed to return to school.

"I really enjoyed aviation," he said about his 15-year career. "It was difficult to let it go. But the aviation industry is shrinking, and I wanted something more stable."

Gabovitz is now a nursing student at Keiser University, and he's working in the emergency room at a local hospital.

"I feel positive about this," he said. "It's not easy, but it's definitely worth it."

Another long-term program is ITT Technical Institute, which opened in December 2009, said Dan McGrew,

director of the Tallahassee campus. The school has about 200 students and is expecting its first class to graduate in December.

ITT offers degree programs in nursing, criminal justice, information technology, electronic engineering technology, and computer-aided drafting and design, McGrew said. The lengths of the programs vary depending on the degree, but they are typically two to four years.

Before the final decision on returning to school is made, there are some things to consider.

Moore recommends first determining whether you are up for being in school. Then, figure out your key interest. Once that's done, ask yourself whether the field is recession-proof and what the financial obligations will be.

"Returning to school is not a bad thought," she said. "But you need to determine if training is the right thing for you and what exactly you need training for."

Our Opinion: The way it works

Cooperation and good facilities helped attract Bing

The relocation of California-based Bing Energy Inc.'s operations to Tallahassee appears to be a major coup for this community and its effort to attract viable, clean-energy business.

Clean energy is at the center of a highly competitive arena and successful players have the potential to generate well-paying jobs and valuable activity for support vendors and businesses.

This announcement Thursday brings national attention to Leon County. But it also highlights the importance of a concerted effort by the Economic Development Council of Leon County, Innovation Park and our local governments and universities to make Leon County attractive to outside businesses.

Efforts such as these are critical to improving the local economy — and quite a lure to companies that find themselves struggling with high taxes and broken economies in states such as California and Illinois.

Most important is the expectation that Bing Energy's move to Tallahassee could result in the creation of up to 250 jobs over the next five years. Tallahasseean Dean Minardi, its CFO, said they expect to fill 12 positions right away. An incentive for a targeted industry of this type meeting its jobs forecast would be a \$1,952,000 rebate from state and local governments to apply toward tax liabilities it incurs here.

One of the main attractions for Bing Energy was the existing research being done at Florida State's High Performance Materials Institute and the Center for Advanced Power Systems, where FAMU-FSU Engineering

professor Jim P. Zheng is principle investigator of the technology Bing will build upon.

Another key element here is the job-training component made available at the Advanced Manufacturing Training Center at [Tallahassee Community College](#). While Workforce Plus will help Bing identify potential employees, the TCC center will provide training specific to the needs of Bing's operation.

As Beth Kirkland, executive director of the Economic Development Council, points out, this fits in with the council's mission to identify businesses in the energy and transportation sector that might consider moving operations to Tallahassee.

Already located here is Danfoss Turbocor, which builds air conditioning compressors recently saluted by the Manufacturers Association of Florida. An outgrowth of that business is Verdicorp Inc., which will develop renewable energy power plants. Another startup success story is Global CNC Solutions, a precision machine shop that creates parts to engineers' specifications. Last month, High Performance Magnetics broke ground on a plant at the Tallahassee airport, where it will build superconducting magnet components for a fusion power plant in Europe.

Gov. Rick Scott applauded the decision by Bing to relocate to Florida. We hope that he recognizes the importance of what is happening in Tallahassee and provides state universities with funding to offer students the training needed to be prepared for the future job market.

Campus Notes

By line

PUBLICATION

TALLAHASSEE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

ISS office hosting open house: TCC's Office of International Student Services (ISS) will host an open house from 4 to 7 p.m. Tuesday on the second floor of the Student Union. The official program will kick off at 5 p.m. The open house will give visitors the opportunity to learn about the many services ISS provides to international students and permanent residents at TCC, from immigration services to global events and much more. For more information, contact the ISS Office at (850) 201-8258.

Advising Day events start today: TCC students interested in transferring to a four-year college have the opportunity to meet with university advisers at Advising Day events at the TCC Student Union Ballroom today through Wednesday. Appointments can be made by e-mailing enrollment@tcc.fl.edu or calling (850) 201-8555. Walk-ins are welcome. Students are required to bring a copy of their transcript to the appointment.

Tallahassee Democrat - February 15, 2011

Dr. Marilyn Dickey named Director of Distance Learning at TCC

Reporter: TCC Release

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. (February 15, 2011) –

[Tallahassee Community College](#) has announced the hiring of Dr. Marilyn Dickey as its Director of Distance Learning.

The newly-created position was designed to help TCC's already strong distance learning program better meet the growing demand for classes to be offered in non-traditional mediums, most notably the flexibility to take classes and even earn a degree from the home.

"We are fortunate to have Marilyn join our team in this crucial role," said TCC President Jim Murdaugh. "Much of our future success rides on our ability to deliver learning to students using new and emerging strategies."

As the Director of Distance Learning, Dickey will focus the College's energies on becoming a front-runner in the competitive arena of web-based program delivery and assure the integration of all student services with course and program delivery so that any student will receive comprehensive support.

"As our community seeks to create more jobs and well-trained employees, distance learning will continue to play a vital role in flexible education," said Kate Stewart, Dean of Technology and Professional Programs. "TCC is well-positioned to facilitate learning to all students, and Dr. Dickey will lead us to reach more students and better serve those who need competitive employment skills."

Dickey comes to TCC from Renaissance Educational Consulting Services, where she was CEO. Her previous experience also includes 11 years as the Director of Instructional and Information Technology at Florida A&M University, where she also served as a faculty member in the University's Schools of Nursing.

Dickey has also facilitated online doctoral level courses with the School of Advanced Studies at the University of Phoenix.

Dickey received her Ed.D. in organizational leadership and instructional technology from NOVA Southeastern University.

Education for In-Demand Jobs

Now is the time to **invest in your future**. Tallahassee Community College prepares you for the in-demand careers of 2011 and beyond. In many programs, you can train for your new career in less than a year.

Earn up-to-date degrees and certificates in many of the fastest growing industries and fields, including:



Computer Technology

From degrees in game design and networking services to certificates in computer programming and graphic design, TCC's programs provide the skills and expertise to excel in this ever expanding field.

Criminal Justice

TCC's Criminal Justice program features many degree options or a 24-credit hour certificate in Crime Scene Investigation

Engineering Technology

TCC's Engineering Technology program allows you to specialize in the engineering field that is right for you and prepares you for a career with high earnings, quick growth potential and a variety of work environments.

Health Information Management

The Health Information Specialist certificate is an 18-hour program focusing on one of the fastest growing industries in the nation.



For more information about the opportunities at TCC,
call **(850) 201-8352** or visit **www.GoToTCC.com**

TCC Wakulla Center now offering:

Green Guide Classes (\$20 each) and/or Field Trips (\$40 each)

Learn about and explore the natural history of the Big Bend area from February 21 – April 27.

Some of our upcoming classes and field trips include:

Business Basics and Startup I	2/21	6-9 p.m.
Water-Related Businesses	2/22	6-9 p.m.
>St. Marks Wildlife Refuge Field Trip	2/26	9 a.m.-1 p.m.
Wakulla Landscape I	3/1	6-9 p.m.
Business Basics II	3/2	6-9 p.m.
>River Ecosystems/Tree ID Field Trip	3/5	9 a.m.- 5 p.m.
Creating Web Pages and Web Marketing I	3/14	6-9 p.m.
Wakulla Landscape II	3/15	6-9 p.m.
Ecosystems Workshop	3/16	6-9 p.m.
>Kayak Field Trip	3/20	1-5 p.m.
Creating Web Pages and Web Marketing II	3/21	6-9 p.m.
Geological Features	3/22	6-9 p.m.
>Forest Field Trip I - Leon Sinks	3/26	9 a.m.-1 p.m.
Florida Archeology & Pre-History	3/28	6-9 p.m.
Birds of the Region	3/29	6-9 p.m.

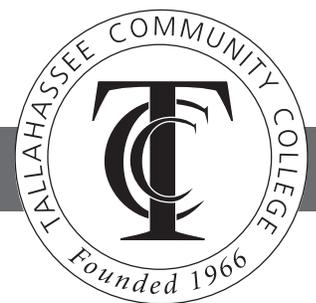


Or complete the Green Guide Certification Course for only \$320!

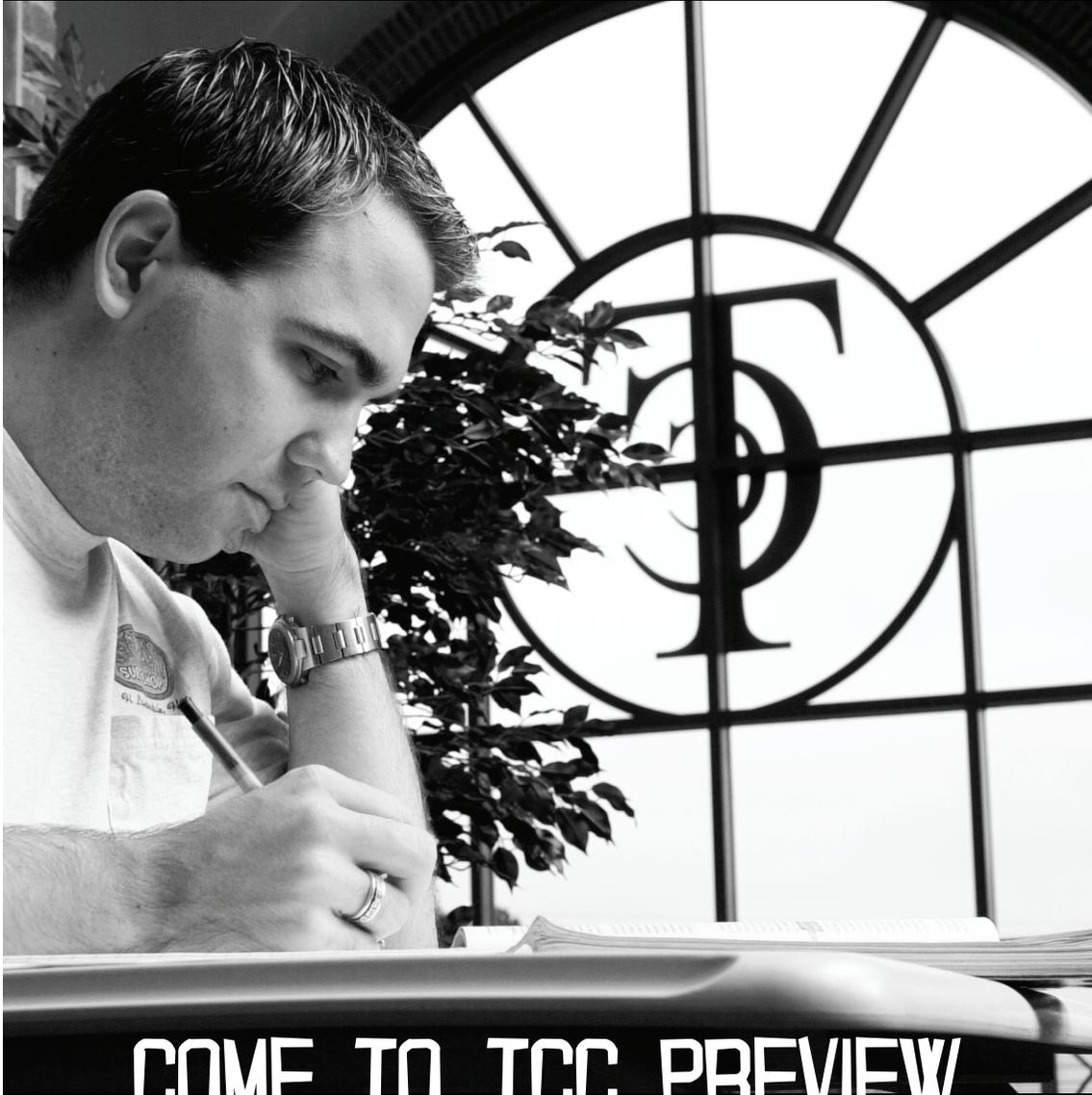
For the complete class schedule or for more info,

visit workforce.tcc.fl.edu/Wakulla

or call the TCC Wakulla Center at **922-6290.**



PLAN TO ATTEND TCC?



COME TO TCC PREVIEW

Monday, February 21

6-8 p.m. | Student Union Ballroom

QUESTIONS?

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

USA Funds Countdown to College



Florida

Inside the 2011 issue:

2 **College Goal Sunday** | 4 **Financial Aid Success Story** | 5 **Federal Sources of Aid** |
6 **State Grants, Scholarships** | 8 **College Education Pays Dividends**

Sponsored by USA Funds®, a nonprofit corporation that works to enhance postsecondary education preparedness, access and success.

Need Money for College? College Goal Sunday Can Help

Put your hands on some cash for college by attending Florida's College Goal Sunday. The event will be on Feb. 20 at most sites and on Feb. 27 at two locations.

In most locations, financial aid professionals will be available from 2-5 p.m. to help you complete the federal financial aid application and explain the options you have to pay for college. At many sites, you could qualify to win a scholarship given away at the event.

"The College Goal Sunday program helps families understand that higher education is possible for their children," says Anh-Kay Pizano, coordinator of Florida's College Goal Sunday and project coordinator for ENLACE Florida, a statewide network that promotes college readiness. "By explaining the financial aid process, we help to connect students to federal dollars that are available to them."

This is the sixth year financial aid professionals from colleges, universities and community groups are volunteering to help families complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid at Florida's College Goal Sunday.

"Completing the FAFSA is an important first step to making college a reality for many families," Pizano says, noting that the form is necessary to apply for federal student loans and grants. In addition, many scholarship donors require students to file a FAFSA, and many colleges and universities use the FAFSA to make decisions about institutional grant and scholarship awards.

Check the list at the right to find the College Goal Sunday location nearest you.

If you plan to file the FAFSA online at College Goal Sunday, get a personal identification number before the event by visiting www.pin.ed.gov. Bring the PIN with you. You also can find step-by-step instructions about completing the FAFSA at www.fafsa.gov.

This year's College Goal Sunday is sponsored by USA Funds, ENLACE Florida, Lumina Foundation for Education and the YMCA. Find more information at www.collegegoalsundayflorida.org.

College Goal Sunday

College Goal Sunday will be on Feb. 20 at most sites across Florida and on Feb. 27 at two Miami locations. The event will be from 2-5 p.m. except where noted.

Feb. 20

1 DeLand

DeLand YMCA Chisolm Center
520 S. Clara Ave.
gdmunroe@volusia.k12.fl.us

2 Fort Myers

Immokalee High School
701 Immokalee Drive
gallegjo@collier.k12.fl.us
ackleyri@collier.k12.fl.us

Rasmussen College
9160 Forum Corporate Parkway
toni.hobbs@rasmussen.edu

3 Gainesville

Santa Fe College
3000 NW 83rd St.
Building N, Room 216
maureen.mcfarlane@sfcc.edu

Eastside High School
1201 Southeast 43rd St.
brownln@gm.sbac.edu

Williston High School
427 W. Noble Ave.
info@aplususa.org

4 Homestead

enFAMILIA Inc.
141 N. Krome Ave.
Art & Family Education Center
lucy@enfamiliainc.org

South Dade Senior High School
28401 Southwest 167th Ave.
lisenatus@collegesummit.org

5 Jacksonville

Florida State College
Advanced Technology Center
401 W. State St.
1-5 p.m.
kccotton@fscj.edu

6 Kissimmee

Poinciana High School
2300 S. Poinciana Blvd.
grayk@osceola.k12.fl.us

TECO

501 Simpson Road
grayk@osceola.k12.fl.us

7 Miami

ASPIRA Raul A. Martinez Charter School
13300 Memorial Highway
North Miami
dfranklin@fl.aspira.org

Urban League of Greater Miami Inc.
8400 NW 25th Ave.
shenley@miamiurbanleague.org

Educate Tomorrow
1717 N. Bayshore Drive
Suite 203
french@educatetomorrow.org

The Resource Room
19715 NW 37th Ave.
Honeyhill Plaza
t_room@bellsouth.net

Florida International University
11200 Southwest Eighth St.
lenivj@fiu.edu

8 Milton

Pensacola State College
Milton Campus
5988 Highway 90
Computer Lab, Building 4200
vsantoni@pensacolastate.edu

9 Miramar

Ana G. Mendez University System
3520 Enterprise Way
ssanchez@fl.aspira.org

Parkway Academy
7451 Riviera Blvd.
twilliams@parkwaycharter.org

10 Orlando

Jones High School
801 S. Rio Grande Ave.
Media Center
minaford@cfymca.org

Oak Ridge High School

6000 S. Winegard Road
minaford@cfymca.org

Central Florida Urban League

2804 Belco Drive
depps@cful.org

Acceleration Academy

2274 S. Semoran Blvd.
minaford@cfymca.org

Evans High School

Ninth Grade Center
2751 Lake Stanley Road
minaford@cfymca.org

Workforce Advantage Academy

2113 E. South St.
minaford@cfymca.org

University of Central Florida

4000 Central Florida Blvd.
Millican Hall 120
nshurdom@mail.ucf.edu

11 Panama City

Florida State University
Panama City campus
4750 Collegiate Drive
mdavis@pc.fsu.edu

12 Pensacola

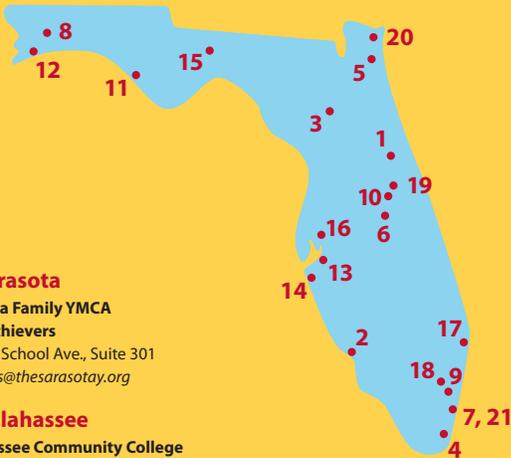
Pensacola State College
1000 College Blvd.
Baroco Center for Science & Advanced Technology
Computer Lab, Building 21
vsantoni@pensacolastate.edu

Pensacola State College

Warrington Campus
5555 W. Highway 98
William Simon Boyd Building
Computer Lab, Building 3100
vsantoni@pensacolastate.edu

13 Ruskin

South Shore Regional Library
15816 Beth Shields Way
harriswd@hillsboroughcounty.org



14 Sarasota

**Sarasota Family YMCA
Teen Achievers**
1 South School Ave., Suite 301
jwilliams@thesarasotay.org

15 Tallahassee

Tallahassee Community College
444 Appleyard Drive
spiersb@tcc.fl.edu

16 Tampa

Leto High School
4409 W. Sligh Ave.
nrosado@yahoo.com

University of South Florida

Scholarships and
Financial Aid Services
4202 E. Fowler Ave.
CPR 115
dlovett@admin.usf.edu

C. Blythe Andrews Jr. Public Library

2607 E. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
tonitil@hillsboroughcounty.org

Middleton High School

4801 N. 22nd St.
elmer.booth@sdhc.k12.fl.us

Seffner-Mango Public Library

410 N. Kingsway Road
danakm@hillsboroughcounty.org

Tampa Housing Authority

Robles Park Resources Center
3814 N. Central Ave.
glen@educatetoday.org

Tampa Metropolitan YMCA— Northwest Hillsborough branch

8950 W. Waters Ave.
ryan.morais@tampaymca.org

The University of Tampa

401 W. Kennedy Blvd.
tierra.smith@ut.edu

17 West Palm Beach

**Urban League of
Palm Beach County**
1700 N. Australian Ave.
gscott@ulpbc.org

18 Weston

**American
InterContinental University**
South Florida Campus
2250 N. Commerce Parkway
tbrown@aiufl.edu

19 Winter Park

**Rollins College Education
Talent Search**
1000 Holt Ave.
cglatting@rollins.edu

20 Yulee

Florida State College
76346 William Burgess Blvd.
Cook Center
1–5 p.m.
dhughes@fscj.edu

Feb. 27

21 Miami

**Miami-Dade County
Public Schools**
Neighborhood
Resource Center—North
Northside Shopping Center
7900 NW 27th Ave.
(130 South Court), Suite F-9
lcollins2@dadeschools.net

Miami-Dade County Public Schools

Neighborhood
Resource Center—South
5555 SW 93rd Ave.
Florida Diagnostic Learning
Resources System Building
rsanchez1@dadeschools.net

What to Bring to College Goal Sunday

Take these simple steps to participate in College Goal Sunday and begin mapping out your future:

1. Find a site in your area by reviewing the map and list at the left. You can also find a list of locations at www.collegegoalsundayflorida.org.
2. Get a Free Application for Federal Student Aid personal identification number by accessing www.pin.ed.gov.
3. If you are age 23 or younger, single and have no dependents, bring a parent. Parents can attend with their students, or they can come in place of their students. If you are age 24 or older, are married or have dependents, you can attend without a parent.
4. Bring your 2010 Internal Revenue Service tax return, W-2 Forms or other relevant 2010 income information. If you haven't done your taxes yet, bring the information you have and you can update the form later. The following materials also may be helpful:

- ♦ Social Security number.
- ♦ 2010 bank statement.
- ♦ Driver's license or alien registration card.
- ♦ Business investment and mortgage information for 2010.
- ♦ Untaxed income records for 2010 such as Social Security, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, and welfare.

Arrive promptly at the start of College Goal Sunday so you have plenty of time to complete the FAFSA and get answers to your financial aid questions. College Goal Sunday volunteers will provide the rest — including the FAFSA, worksheets and pencils, and online computer access.

For more information, visit the College Goal Sunday website, www.collegegoalsundayflorida.org.



USA Funds Countdown to College

Student Working Toward Career as Lawyer With Help of Financial Aid

Growing up in Chicago, Guy Jackson knew from an early age he wanted to be a lawyer.

“The lawyers in our community were highly respected men and women and assisted a lot of families when they really needed help but didn’t have any way of paying attorney fees,” he recalls. “The lawyers showed me how to give back to the community.”

Financial aid — in the form of grants, scholarships, work-study funding and student loans — is helping Jackson work toward his dream.

He’s currently in his last semester at Florida A&M University, and he’ll graduate in the spring with a bachelor’s degree in political science. Afterward, he hopes to attend law school either in Florida or possibly North Carolina.

He says his parents emphasized the importance of a college education to him and to his brother and sister. “My dad was in the military,” Jackson says, “and he said that obtaining an education was the best way to be productive and successful in life.”

When Jackson graduates, he will be the first in his family to receive a college degree.

Jackson began his college career at Chicago State University. After an uncle encouraged him to explore the benefits of attending one of the historically black colleges and universities (HBCUs), however, Jackson transferred to FAMU.

He says he still would have gone to college even if he hadn’t qualified for financial aid, but it would have taken him much longer to achieve his goals. During high school he had worked and saved what he could to take some college courses. After learning about how to search for scholarships and understanding the details of the federal student loan program, he decided to go to school full time.

“I really didn’t want to take out a student loan, but after learning about the benefits of the lower interest rate and that the payments would be deferred if I were at least a part-time student, I began to feel more comfortable about borrowing,” he says.

He has his “fair share” of loans, he says, but by paying for a portion of his education with loans he has learned to borrow wisely and take each course seriously so he does not have to retake a course.

“I believe a college education is a good investment,” Jackson says. “Some form of education beyond high school is needed to get into the workplace. If a person doesn’t feel ready for a large university, a community college can be a great way to start.

“What’s most important is to find what you like to do and seek a college that offers a program that will turn your interest into a career.”

Federal Programs Offer Financial Help for College

The U.S. government is the largest source of financial aid for college, providing grants, loans and work-study assistance, as well as higher education tax benefits. To qualify for most federal financial aid for college, families must complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid.

The major federal financial aid programs fall into three categories:

- ◆ **Federal grants**, which you do not repay.
- ◆ **Campus-based aid**, which is administered by school financial aid offices and includes grants, loans and work-study.
- ◆ **Federal student loans**, which students or parents must repay.

Federal grants

The Federal Pell Grant is the largest federal grant program to assist students pursuing postsecondary education, but the federal government also sponsors other grant programs.

Pell Grant

- ◆ Must be an undergraduate student who is a U.S. citizen, U.S. national or eligible noncitizen.
- ◆ Grant size depends on your Expected Family Contribution, your cost of attendance, your full- or part-time status as a student, and your plans to attend school for a full academic year or less.
- ◆ Maximum grant for the 2010-2011 academic year is \$5,550.
- ◆ The maximum Pell Grant award is given to any Pell Grant-eligible student whose parent or guardian died as a result of military service in Iraq or Afghanistan after Sept. 11, 2001, as long as the student is under 24 years old and enrolled part time at the time of the death.
- ◆ Some students may qualify for more than one Pell Grant in a single year.

Iraq/Afghanistan Service Grant

- ◆ Must not be eligible for a Pell Grant.
- ◆ Must have a parent or guardian who died as a result of military service in Iraq or Afghanistan after Sept. 11, 2001, and must have been younger than 24 years old and enrolled at least part time at the time of the death.

TEACH Grant

- ◆ Must be a U.S. citizen or eligible noncitizen enrolled in an eligible school pursuing undergraduate or graduate course work needed for a teaching career. You must agree to teach in a high-need field in a public or private elementary or secondary school that serves low-income students.
- ◆ High-need fields include bilingual education and English language acquisition, foreign language, mathematics, reading specialist, science and special education. The U.S. Department of Education's annual Teacher Shortage Area Nationwide Listing provides other teacher shortage areas by subject or geographic areas; visit www.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ope/pol/tsa.doc. The Department's Annual Directory of Designated Low-Income Schools for Teacher Cancellation Benefits lists schools serving low-income students; visit www.tcli.ed.gov/CBSWebApp/tcli/TCLIPubSchoolSearch.jsp.
- ◆ Provides grants of up to \$4,000 a year. Although you must complete the FAFSA, you do not need to show financial need.
- ◆ Must maintain a cumulative grade point average of at least 3.25 and score above the 75th percentile on college admissions tests.

- ◆ Each year you receive a TEACH grant, you must sign an agreement to serve as a highly qualified teacher in the designated areas or schools. For each academic program for which you receive TEACH grant funding, you must agree to teach for four academic years within eight years of completing your academic program. If you fail to complete the required teaching service, all TEACH grant funds convert to a federal student loan, accrue interest, and must be repaid.

Academic Competitiveness Grant (Available only through June 30, 2011.)

- ◆ Must be a first-year student who graduated from high school after Jan. 1, 2006, or a second-year student who graduated from high school after Jan. 1, 2005.
- ◆ Provides grants of up to \$750 for the first year of academic study and up to \$1,300 for the second year of academic study.
- ◆ Must be a U.S. citizen or eligible noncitizen and a Pell Grant recipient, be enrolled in an eligible program at least half time, and have completed a rigorous high school curriculum including specified courses.
- ◆ Must maintain at least a 3.0 cumulative GPA to qualify for the second year of the grant.

National SMART Grant (Available only through June 30, 2011.)

- ◆ Must be majoring in physical, life or computer sciences; mathematics; technology; engineering; or a foreign language critical to national security.
- ◆ Provides grants of up to \$4,000 in each of the third and fourth years (and fifth year of a five-year program) of undergraduate study, if you are enrolled in an eligible program at least half time.
- ◆ Must be a U.S. citizen or eligible noncitizen and must be Pell Grant eligible, and maintain a cumulative GPA of at least 3.0.

Campus-based aid

Not all schools participate in these programs, so check with your financial aid office to determine what's available on your campus. Application deadlines vary by campus. Apply early because when funds are gone, no more awards are made.

Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant

- ◆ Must be an undergraduate student who demonstrates financial need.
- ◆ Provides grants of \$100 to \$4,000 a year, depending on when you apply, your level of need, the funding level at your school, and your school's financial aid policies.

Federal Perkins Loan

- ◆ Must be an undergraduate, graduate or professional student who demonstrates financial need.
- ◆ You may borrow up to \$5,500 per year if you're an undergraduate student and up to \$8,000 a year if you're a graduate student. The amount you receive depends on when you apply, your level of financial need, and the amount of funding available.
- ◆ As long as you are attending school at least half time, repayment begins nine months after you leave school. You are not charged fees for Perkins loans as long as you repay the loan in full and on time.

Federal Work-Study

- ◆ Must be an undergraduate, graduate or professional student with financial need who plans to use earnings from part-time work to pay education expenses.
- ◆ Jobs pay at least the federal minimum wage.
- ◆ The award amount depends on when you apply, your level of need and your school's funds.

Loans

Students may borrow low-interest loans that offer a variety of loan deferment and repayment options. The federal government now makes all new federal education loans, through the Federal Direct Loan Program. Direct Stafford loans are available to student-borrowers. Direct PLUS loans are available to graduate and professional students and to the parents of dependent undergraduate students.

Stafford Loans

- ◆ You must be an undergraduate student, or a graduate or professional student attending an eligible school on at least a half-time basis.
- ◆ If you can demonstrate financial need, you may be eligible for a subsidized Stafford loan. The federal government pays the interest that accrues on your subsidized Stafford loan while you attend college, for up to six months after you leave school, and when you are authorized to defer loan payments.
- ◆ If you do not demonstrate financial need, as determined by federal statute, you may be eligible for unsubsidized Stafford funds. You are responsible for all interest that accrues on unsubsidized Stafford loans from the date of disbursement to the date the loan is paid in full. If you do not pay the accrued interest, it will be added to the principal balance of the loan, which will increase your overall repayment amount.
- ◆ Annual and aggregate loan limits apply to Stafford loans, based on your year in school and dependent or independent status.

Continued on page 8

Variety of State Postsecondary Scholarships, Grants Available

State financial aid in Florida includes a variety of options, including many scholarships and grants open to undergraduate and graduate students with diverse backgrounds and abilities. To learn more about the following programs, call toll-free (888) 827-2004, or visit www.FloridaStudentFinancialAid.org and select "State Grants, Scholarships & Applications" and then "Programs Offered." Select "Apply Here" to access the Florida Financial Aid Application.

Access to Better Learning and Education Grant — For Florida undergraduate students enrolled full time in degree programs at eligible private Florida colleges or universities. Participating institutions determine application procedures, deadlines and student eligibility.

First Generation Matching Grant Program — Need-based aid to eligible undergraduate students who are Florida residents enrolled in participating state colleges and universities and whose parents have not earned a bachelor's degree. Participating institutions determine application procedures, deadlines and student eligibility.

Florida Bright Futures Scholarship — Offers three scholarships — the Florida Academic Scholars Award, the Florida Medallion Scholars Award and the Florida Gold Seal Vocational Scholars Award — to reward Florida high school graduates for high academic achievement. These merit-based awards are noncompetitive and based on students' grade point averages, required high school course work and test scores. Students must apply for this scholarship using the Florida Financial Aid Application before graduation from high school.

Minority Teacher Education Scholarship/Florida Fund for Minority Teachers — For eligible Florida undergraduates who are members of one of the following racial groups: African-American/Black, Hispanic/Latino, Asian American/Pacific Islander, or American Indian/Alaska Native. Students must be in their junior year and enrolled in a teacher education program at eligible institutions.

Florida Resident Access Grant — For Florida undergraduate students enrolled full time in degree programs at eligible private, nonprofit Florida colleges or universities. Participating institutions determine application procedures, deadlines and student eligibility.

Florida Public Postsecondary Career Education Student Assistance Grant — This need-based grant program is for Florida residents enrolled in a certificate program of 450 clock hours or more at participating Florida colleges or career centers operated by district school boards. Participating institutions determine application procedures, deadlines, student eligibility and award amounts.

Florida Student Assistance Grant — Offers need-based grants through separately funded programs. Three programs are available to degree-seeking, resident, undergraduate students who demonstrate substantial financial need and are enrolled in participating postsecondary institutions. Participating institutions determine application procedures, deadlines, student eligibility and award amounts.

Florida Work Experience Program — A need-based program that provides eligible Florida students the opportunity to secure work experiences related to their educational and career goals. Participating institutions determine application procedures, deadlines and student eligibility.

José Martí Scholarship Challenge Grant — Offers need-based merit scholarships to eligible students of Hispanic origin who will attend Florida public or eligible private institutions. Apply during your senior year of high school. Graduate students can apply, but the program gives priority to graduating high school seniors.

Mary McLeod Bethune Scholarship — For undergraduate students who meet scholastic requirements, demonstrate financial need, and attend Bethune-Cookman University, Edward Waters College, Florida A&M University or Florida Memorial University. Participating institutions determine application procedures, deadlines and student eligibility.



Websites Can Help You Plan and Pay for College

The Internet has a wealth of information about selecting colleges and obtaining student financial aid. Start your research with the following websites, and you can link to other helpful Internet sites and related topics.

www.usafunds.org — Information about college planning and managing a student loan, repayment calculators, and forms and publications for students and parents are a few of this site's features. Access the Students section for step-by-step tutorials on the

entire "going to college" process — from preparation to repaying loans.

www.collegegoalsundayflorida.org — The College Goal Sunday 2011 site lists the locations where families can get free assistance with completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid.

www.FloridaStudentFinancialAid.org — Select "State Grants, Scholarships & Applications" and "Programs Offered" for information about grant and scholarship programs. The site also provides details about eligibility requirements, applications, and application- and award status information.

Robert C. Byrd Honors Scholarship — This highly competitive scholarship recognizes outstanding high school graduates who show promise of continued academic achievement. The Florida Department of Education administers this federal scholarship program. A high school principal or other appropriate academic official may nominate students for the scholarship. All nominated students compete for scholarships based on GPAs and test scores. You may use program funds at eligible institutions nationwide.

Rosewood Family Scholarship — Provides assistance for up to 25 eligible students who attend state universities, public community colleges or public postsecondary vocational-technical schools. Eligible students must be direct descendants of families affected by violence in Rosewood in January 1923.

Scholarship for Children and Spouses of Deceased or Disabled Veterans and Service Members — For dependent children, and spouses who have not remarried, of Florida veterans or service members who died from service-connected injuries, diseases or disabilities, or who have been verified by the Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs as having service-connected total and permanent disabilities. Also for dependent children whose parent is classified as a prisoner of war or missing in action by the military or whose civilian parent was captured while serving under the authorization of the U.S. government during wartime.

Talented Twenty Program — In addition to grants and scholarships, students may be eligible for this program, which rewards high school students graduating in the top 20 percent of each senior class by guaranteeing them admission to one of the 11 state universities in Florida. The program also provides priority funding for the Florida Student Assistance Grant for participants who are eligible. To qualify for the Talented Twenty Program, students must be enrolled in a Florida public high school and graduate with a standard diploma; be ranked in the top 20 percent of their class; take the SAT or ACT exam; and complete all 18 college preparatory credits as specified by the state's board of education.

Eight Tips Can Help You Control College Debt

Many families do not have the financial resources to cover the entire cost of their children's college education, which means they may have to borrow to meet part of the expense. Even if you qualify for financial aid, part of the aid package may come in the form of loans that will have to be repaid.

Here are a few tips to help you reduce the cost of borrowing for college:

1. Borrow only what you need to cover the cost of education.
2. Pay the interest on education loans as it comes due.
3. Budget to control expenses. Include out-of-pocket education costs as well as expenses for living, transportation, personal items and entertainment. Analyze where the money goes and see if there is a way to cut some of those costs.
4. Look at ways to cut costs, such as buying used textbooks, using public or school-provided transportation, eating out less or finding a roommate to share expenses. Always ask yourself before buying: "Is this something I really need?" If you don't know, then you usually can skip the purchase.
5. Consider working part time. Make sure to plan your work schedule so your academic work will not suffer. Investigate campus work-study opportunities. Start looking early because work-study funds are awarded on a first-come, first-served basis.
6. Keep a file of your education loan documents and other financial aid papers.
7. Figure how much education debt you can afford to repay by analyzing future earnings. A rule of thumb suggests monthly education loan payments should not exceed 8 to 10 percent of a borrower's gross monthly income.
8. Check to see if your school has a tuition payment plan, which allows a student to pay in installments rather than a lump sum.

For more information about minimizing the costs of borrowing for college, visit the Borrowers section of the USA Funds website, www.usafunds.org.

www.facts.org — The Florida Department of Education and the Florida Center for Advising and Academic Support sponsor this online advising system, called Florida's Academic Counseling and Tracking for Students. See a variety of tools that help the state's high school and college students, as well as parents and counselors, plan and track educational progress.

www.icuf.org — The Independent Colleges & Universities of Florida site offers information and links to the websites of the organization's member schools.

http://maldef.org/leadership/scholarships — The Mexican American Legal Defense and Education Fund site contains an Undergraduate Scholarship Resource Guide that includes information about scholarships

and financial aid programs for permanent legal residents and U.S. citizens as well as information about private scholarships for all students regardless of immigration status. The site also includes specific information and an application for scholarships for law school.

http://csopportunityscholars.org — Center for Student Opportunity runs this site, which details a variety of programs and information designed to help students who are the first in their families to go to college. Students can find college admissions guidance and support, ask questions of experts online, and read blog entries from the organization's Opportunity Scholars.

www.myfloridaprepaid.com — The Florida Prepaid College Board site offers information and online enrollment for the Florida Prepaid College Plan, the nation's largest, and the Florida College Investment Plan.

www.nces.ed.gov/collegenavigator — The U.S. Department of Education's National Center for Education Statistics sponsors this College Navigator site. Students, parents, high school counselors and others interested in postsecondary education in the United States can compare profiles of nearly 7,000 colleges and universities. Search by location, program or major, or other institutional characteristics.

College Education Pays Dividends for Students, Society

The way Jo McGrath sees it, the extra earning power students can get from a college degree is merely the beginning. The long-term benefits, she says, are difficult to quantify.

"A college-educated community adds exponentially to society's intellectual bank and helps us compete in the global economy," says the financial services director at Key College in Dania.

McGrath notes that college-educated people tend to be active politically, volunteer and give back, and are engaged in their communities. In addition, parents with college educations tend to work hard to invest in their children's education.

Statistics from the College Board support McGrath's view. According to the *Education Pays 2010 Report* from the College Board Advocacy & Policy Center, not only are college graduates less likely to be unemployed, but they also are more likely to earn more than high school graduates. They also are:

- ◆ More likely to be covered by employer-provided health insurance.
- ◆ Less likely to be obese.
- ◆ Less likely to smoke.
- ◆ More likely to exercise.
- ◆ More likely to participate in community service activities.
- ◆ More likely to vote.



Photo courtesy of Tallahassee Community College.

McGrath adds that her own undergraduate and graduate experience at City University of New York helped shape how she communicates, views issues, interacts with others and faces challenges. "I also learned how to comfortably engage with various socio-economic and cultural groups with different opinions," she says, noting that without college she might not have had that experience.

So, how much do you think you have to spend to get a college degree? A lot less than you might think. Florida has many state financial aid programs — including the Florida Bright Futures Scholarship program and the Florida Student Assistance Grant program — to help residents afford to go to college.

In addition, for 22 years, the state has sponsored the Florida Prepaid College Plan, a 529 plan that allows parents to prepay college tuition and other expenses at prices in effect when they enroll their children in the plan. More than 260,000 students have used the plan's benefits to help pay for college.

One great reminder, McGrath adds: "Once you invest in your college education, no one can take that education away from you. Knowing that is priceless."

Federal Programs

Continued from page 5

- ◆ A net upfront fee of 0.5 percent of the loan amount will be deducted from your loan proceeds.
- ◆ Repayment does not begin until six months after you leave school or cease to be enrolled at least half time.
- ◆ For subsidized loans first disbursed on or after July 1, 2010, for undergraduate students, the interest rate is fixed at 4.5 percent.
- ◆ Unsubsidized Stafford loans for undergraduates and all Stafford loans for graduate students carry a fixed interest rate of 6.8 percent.
- ◆ You will receive an upfront interest rebate on your loans. When you enter repayment, if you make your first 12 payments on time, you will retain the rebate. If you make a late payment, however, the rebate will be canceled, and any savings will be charged back to your loan amount.

PLUS Loans

- ◆ You must be a natural or adoptive parent of a dependent undergraduate student, or you must be a graduate or professional student. In some cases, a stepparent may be eligible. If you are a graduate or professional student, you must complete the FAFSA. If you are a parent-borrower, your dependent's school may require you and the dependent student to complete the FAFSA; as of July 1, 2011, all parent-borrowers will be required to complete the FAFSA.
- ◆ A credit check is required. PLUS loan borrowers may not have adverse credit. In some instances, an applicant with adverse credit may obtain a creditworthy endorser to be eligible for a loan.
- ◆ A net upfront fee of up to 2.5 percent of the total loan amount will be deducted from the loan proceeds.

- ◆ The annual PLUS loan limit is equal to the cost of attendance minus any financial aid the student receives.
- ◆ You may be eligible to defer repayment of your PLUS loan while you or your dependent are enrolled at least half time and for up to six months after you or your dependent no longer are enrolled at least half time.
- ◆ Interest accrues from the date of the loan's disbursement until the loan is paid in full.
- ◆ The interest rate on new PLUS loans is fixed at 7.9 percent.
- ◆ You will receive an upfront interest rebate on your loans. When you enter repayment, if you make your first 12 payments on time, you will retain the rebate. If you make a late payment, however, the rebate will be canceled, and any savings will be charged back to your loan amount.

For more information, call the Federal Student Aid Information Center, (800) 433-3243, or visit www.studentaid.ed.gov.