

# TALLAHASSEE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

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*In the News*



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**June 18, 2012 - August 8, 2012**

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June 2012-August 2012

# TALLAHASSEE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

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- July 19, WTXL – TCC President Jim Murdaugh in Washington, DC
- August 7, WCTV – TCC named a Great College to Work For
- August 8, WTXL – TCC named a Great College to Work For

## TCC President Presents The Wakulla Environmental Institute

Marsha Buchanan

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. (WTXL)-- TCC President Jim Murdaugh made a special visit to the Wakulla Center presenting plans for the highly anticipated Wakulla Environmental Institute.

Earlier this year Governor Rick Scott signed Florida's budget, which included a \$4.5 million investment for the construction of Tallahassee Community College's Wakulla Environmental Institute.

The Institute will highlight Wakulla's natural heritage and biodiversity offering unique science and technology education opportunities.

"We see our involvement in Wakulla County as really bringing together three important elements, education, conservation and recreation in a way that makes wakullla a destination. So we can bring people here, provide memorable experiences to them that no one else can do." Says Murdaugh.

Dr. Murdaugh says TCC plans to offer environmental degrees and certificate programs within the Institute.



## Education notebook: Macon State names admissions dean

### FROM STAFF REPORTS

Sheri L. Rowland has been named dean of Admissions and Enrollment Management at Macon State College. Rowland, currently dean of Enrollment Management at [Tallahassee Community College](#), starts her new job July 16.

"It is a privilege to join the students, staff and faculty of Macon State College," Rowland said. "It is an exciting time to be a part of the journey and transformation that will occur there over the next few years, and I look forward to becoming a part of an organization committed to growth, student success and academic excellence."

Rowland has worked at [Tallahassee Community College](#) since 2004, serving as dean of Enrollment Management since 2009. Previously, she served as director of Enrollment Services and Research at Gulf Coast Community College, where she received an Outstanding Administrator award. She is a graduate of the Florida Chancellor's Leadership Program and the Florida Leadership Academy. Rowland holds a doctorate of education from Florida State University and a master of arts in psychological counseling and bachelor's in psychology from Southeast Missouri State University.

## Community College Times- June 18, 2012

### Helping a fallen officer's family

#### Times Staff

At [Tallahassee Community College](#), the Florida Public Safety Institute's (FPSI) Basic Recruit Class (BRC) #389 presented a check last week to the Clay County Sheriff's Office that will benefit the family of Detective David White. In February, White was shot and killed during a raid on a suspected drug house. He leaves behind his wife, daughter and infant son.

FPSI's law enforcement classes are required to work on a community service project of their choosing. Inspired by White and touched by his grieving family, BRC #389 organized the Detective David White Memorial 5K Run, which raised \$6,171.

## TCC trustees approve tuition without hike

Doug Blackburn

Tallahassee Community College's Board of Trustees voted today to keep tuition right where it is for the coming school year.

While the Legislature authorized the state's 28 colleges to increase tuition up to 5 percent, TCC trustees were clearly paying attention to Gov. Rick Scott, who is strongly opposed to raising tuition.

TCC also stands in marked contrast to Florida State and Florida A&M, both of which are in Orlando this week hoping that the Board of Governors will approve their 15-percent tuition-increase requests.

"I think the governor is reflecting the times in this area," said Allison DeFoor, chair of TCC's board. "We run a tight ship and we're tightening down the hatches because of the difficult times. This is good governance."

In-state students at TCC — which has an enrollment of more than 14,000 — pay \$96.83 per credit hour, or \$2,304 in tuition and fees per year for a full-time schedule of 30 credit hours. That's less than half of what it costs to attend FSU or FAMU.

"As university tuitions continue to rise, we become an even more incredible deal," TCC President Jim Murdaugh said.

Unlike the state's public university system, which endured dramatic cuts to its reserves and a reduction in appropriations, the Legislature this year did not make cuts to the state college system.

TCC is required to submit its budget to the Department of Education by June 30, but today's vote by the trustees is the final step for approval.

## Murdaugh demurs on salary increase

### TCC president gets high marks from board, declines any discussion of raise

Doug Blackburn

It's hard to imagine a college president getting better reviews than Jim Murdaugh has received during his first two years at [Tallahassee Community College](#).

Maybe one extra reason members of TCC's Board of Trustees are so smitten with Murdaugh is that he has refused to let them consider a salary increase for him.

Murdaugh, who makes \$261,000 a year, for the second straight year made it clear that he did not want to entertain any discussion of a pay increase, no matter how much the trustees think he deserves one.

Allison DeFoor, chair of TCC's board, said he gave Murdaugh "fives across the board" in his individual evaluation of TCC's president, who had been in charge of the college's Pat Thomas Law Enforcement Academy before becoming president in 2010.

"I suspect if he wanted a raise, he would have gotten one," DeFoor said Monday. "Given the economic climate we're dealing with, I think he's been very wise to decline any notion of a salary increase.

"My strong belief is, if he keeps hitting it out of the ballpark, someone will come knocking. We want to keep him locked in (at TCC)," DeFoor added.

Trustees at Florida State also are pleased with the job President Eric Barron is doing, and earlier this month added a number of incentives to his contract, including one that will make him the highest paid president in the State University System if FSU is admitted to the elite Association of American Universities. FSU trustees also increased Barron's salary by 3 percent last August, raising it to \$406,850.

TCC Trustee Dana Callen co-chaired with DeFoor the committee on salary and compensation for Murdaugh. She also had high praise for the president, but deferred to Murdaugh's wish to not even discuss a pay raise.

"That's the way he feels," she said. "I think the president feels with tuition staying the same and no increases right now for faculty and staff, any talk of an increase for him would be inappropriate."

## App Innovators builds a following locally

Dave Hodges

It almost doesn't seem like work.

James Parsons and Dustin Rivest are riding the smartphone wave as many have done, and having fun doing it. You can tell because they grin a lot.

Their firm, App Innovators, is taking the approach that a tailored application that's able to meet a client's unique needs is the marketing tool to offer. The idea, they say, is catching on.

"I started the mobile marketing company in Miami and when I graduated, I moved it to Tallahassee," said Rivest, who got his degree from Florida International University. The apps work on iPhones, Android devices and on iPads.

They created the app for Hotel Duval, giving guests a nifty means of summoning their car from valet parking, making a dinner reservation, or ordering from the room service menu. Guests love it, says Marc Bauer, the hotel's general manager.

"The feedback has been fantastic," Bauer added. "I won't even say it's the wave of the future. If you aren't on that wave, you are already behind the curve."

The fact that App Innovators was right here in town was a big factor in hiring them, Bauer said. He liked being able to meet face to face with individuals who were familiar with the hotel, its clientele and its particular approach to the hospitality business.

And as a bonus, the mobile app functions seamlessly with the hotel's updated web site. "For me, that was very exciting," Bauer said.

Other clients include the Fifth Avenue Taproom, Finnegan's Wake and beverage maker Mike's Hard Lemonade. "Every time they release a new product, they want an app for that product," said Parsons, who is App Innovators' sales director.

For the Florida Society of Association Executives, the July conference will feature an app that attendees can download and use to keep up with schedules, speakers and events.

Parsons and Rivest are hoping that added exposure for their firm will lead to more business. They also are hoping to pick up more work from other hotels.

"What's helping us is there aren't dozens and dozens of firms that do what we do," says Parsons, who has attended [Tallahassee Community College](#). And, "We don't do 25 different things. We just do one thing and do it really well."

Other projects are in the works and they expect to be making some further announcements as the details are firmed up.

And having fun in the process.

## TCC announces no immediate tuition increase

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. – Monday, Tallahassee Community College's District Board of Trustees approved a budget for the 2012-13 fiscal year, one that includes no tuition increase for the Fall 2012 semester. The vote took place during TCC's monthly Board of Trustees meeting.

Last month, TCC President Jim Murdaugh announced his recommendation to freeze tuition, despite authorization by the Florida Legislature to increase tuition by up to five percent. Today, the Board voted unanimously to support the President's recommendation.

TCC tuition and fees are \$98.83 per credit hour for in-state residents; \$375.99 per credit hour for out-of-state residents.

President Murdaugh's recommendation was due to Governor Rick Scott's request to colleges to first make certain that they are as efficient as possible with current budgets before increasing student tuition rates. Scott also added that any tuition hikes should support improved learning gains, higher completion and placement rates, or improved programs tied directly to Florida's workforce.

"Unless and until we can identify strategies to improve the College in the three areas that the Governor identified, we will not ask our Trustees to vote for a tuition increase," President Murdaugh said at the May 21 board meeting.

TCC leadership does monitor and implement strategies in the three areas the Governor asked colleges to focus on before considering tuition increases. TCC's emphasis on improved learning gains has been tracked at 85 percent and 82 percent in the areas of critical thinking and written communication, respectively.

TCC's completion rate is almost three percent higher than the state average. Still, extra effort is being made to enhance student engagement, intervene early when needed and offer greater outside the classroom learning support and experiences. The College is working to improve programs tied to Florida's workforce needs by expanding STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) and environmental programs and aligning with local advisory boards to determine the best education and training needed for in-demand jobs.

## Florida Gateway College receives \$3.9 million grant to boost Nursing program

Troy Roberts

Florida Gateway College has received a \$3.9 million grant from the U.S. Department of Labor to support the launch of its Nursing baccalaureate degree, as well as expand the current Nursing program.

The four-year grant, part of \$183 million in funding of the H-1B Technical Skills Training Program, is providing funding to 43 private and public entities for education, training, and job placement assistance.

Through these programs, workers will be equipped with the necessary knowledge, skills, and abilities to succeed in new and emerging occupations in high-growth industries.

FGC is the only state college in Florida to receive one of the grants and one of only 43 organizations nationwide to receive a grant.

One of the major components of the grant is to develop new simulation practices for nursing career pathways as part of a partnership with the Florida Center for Nursing, Pensacola State College, [Tallahassee Community College](#), and Florida State College of Jacksonville.

These new simulation practices will come through the purchase of cutting-edge equipment and software. One of the purchases, a 3D MRI software called BodyViz, is a specialty imaging program that allows users to “travel” under the skin, past the bones, through the arteries, blood vessels and organs, as well as insert virtual surgical tools that can be maneuvered around internal structures of the anatomy.

The college is also utilizing the grant to add additional faculty members, develop a new Paramedic-RN program, and add a second cadaver.

For more information, contact Troy Roberts at [Troy.Roberts@fgc.edu](mailto:Troy.Roberts@fgc.edu) or by calling (386) 754-4247.



## Support forms for sales tax

Lisa Fingerroot

A group of civic, business and education leaders will kick off a sales tax support campaign this morning at Griffin Middle School.

The Alliance for Better County Schools, calling itself ABCs, is expected to announce its formation and its intent to create voter support for an extension of a half-cent sales tax to support Leon County Schools.

A formal announcement is scheduled at 11 a.m.

An extension of the half-cent sales tax is "absolutely necessary" to maintain the current quality of education in Leon County, maintain and renovate aging buildings, and also to fund a technology plan that will meet state requirements for students, said Steve Uhlfelder, a local attorney, long-time education and children's advocate, and chairman of ABCs

The existing sales tax was approved by voters in 2002 and is set to end Dec. 31. But voters will be asked to approve a 15-year extension of the tax when they go to the polls in November.

"We couldn't have built Bond (Elementary), Conley (Elementary) and Montford (Middle) without this tax," Uhlfelder said of the existing sales tax.

Leon County's schools are aging and many are not wired for technology, he added. Without extensive renovations, the schools will not be able to meet upcoming state requirements for digital textbooks and also the requirement that every child take at least one online class before graduation.

The average Leon County resident will generate about \$1 a week for the sales tax, which would require taxable expenditures of about \$200, Uhlfelder said.

The group headed by Uhlfelder is an outgrowth of the Greater Tallahassee Chamber of Commerce, which recently endorsed the sales tax extension after a lengthy review process by a group of about 60 volunteers.

"We shudder to think what the learning environment would look like in our community if we had not had the sales tax during the last 10 years," said Jim Murdaugh, president of [Tallahassee Community College](#) and also chairman of the group that reviewed plans for the sales tax money.

An extension of the sales tax is expected to generate about \$265 million during the 15-year life of the tax.

The ABCs' campaign is a "deep grassroots" effort designed to educate voters on how the sales tax money would be used and how it will affect students, said Ron Sachs, president of Ron Sachs Communications and a volunteer for the effort.

The group is planning to have a stable of available speakers available to speak to community groups.

Leon County Schools Superintendent Jackie Pons said he also will be available for speaking dates.

"This is one of the most important votes in this election," said Pons, who will be running for re-election on the same ballot against Sabrina M. Allen.

A website for more information about the sales-tax extension is also expected to be up and running today and can be found at [www.LeonABCs.com](http://www.LeonABCs.com).

"Even with the sales tax continuing, we will have needs that won't be met," said Uhlfelder, a former PTA president whose own children graduated from Leon County Schools.

"The risks are high if we don't" approve the extension, Uhlfelder added.



## TCC student-teachers leave for sister-school in Taiwan

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. (WTVL) – This summer, six Tallahassee Community College students will embark on the field trip of a lifetime. For the entire month of July, they will be part of TCC's Sister School program in Kaohsiung, Taiwan.

The students and faculty will teach English to students at San Sin High School of Commerce and Home Economics. All of the students are enrolled at either TCC or Flagler College's TCC campus branch.

Dr. Jeanne O'Kon, director of the Sister School program and a member of the TCC faculty, has noted that the relationship between the young teachers and students in past visits has always extended well beyond the classroom.

"The American students learned just as much as the local students did—especially about Taiwanese culture and the kindness and generosity of the Taiwanese people," she said regarding past experiences by TCC students.

Student-teacher David McCulley, who is returning to Taiwan after last year's trip, agreed. "I would attend this trip every year for the rest of my life if it were possible," he said.

"While I was there I learned that there is so much variation between the American student culture and the culture of students in the Taiwanese population. Their passion for education amazed me."

The Americans will live with Taiwanese host families during their stay and will have plenty of opportunities to experience the island first hand—visiting local temples, shopping in outdoor markets, attending yoga classes and partaking in traditional ceremonies and customs. The Sister School relationship between TCC and San Sin began in 1993 and is the longest-lasting global education program at TCC. Dozens of TCC faculty and students have had the opportunity to participate and, over the years, a number of San Sin High School graduates have attended TCC.

McCulley is certain that his experiences will not only enrich his personal life, but his professional endeavors of being a teacher as well.

"The impact this trip has made on me is strengthening my ability to diversify my teaching strategies, and also it has helped me understand how to accept cultural differences between my own and others."

## Beth Shields Middle School Students Get a Taste of Renewable Energy Technologies

FLATE (Florida Advanced Technological Education Center), the NSF (National Science Foundation) Center of excellence in high-tech manufacturing, in conjunction with Hillsborough Community College South Shore campus is organizing its second, annual summer energy camp. The camp will be held July 9-12 at HCC-South Shore Campus in Ruskin, FL. During the camp, 25 students from Beth Shields Middle School in Ruskin, currently enrolled in Hillsborough County's AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination) program, will learn and gain deeper understanding of the many aspects of renewable energy technologies. Students will engage in a variety of hands-on activities that will introduce them to energy concepts including fossil fuels, their environmental impact, and the science of electricity generation. They will also learn about solar cells, solar thermal energy, wind energy, environmental care, fuel-cells, home efficiency and ocean energy.

FLATE's energy camp is part of a network of energy camps being offered simultaneously at [Tallahassee Community College](#), Florida State College at Jacksonville, and Brevard Community College. Nina Stokes, camp coordinator and project manager for FESC (Florida Energy Systems Consortium) says "the camps focus on fun, yet challenging, hands-on activities that enable students to make real-life connections to world of renewable energy technologies." Stokes says "as the production of renewable energy continues to grow, camps like this help educate tomorrow's citizens about issues that will directly impact them/their environment in the future."

Indeed, the energy camps are made possible through a partnership between FLATE and FESC which is a consortium of Florida universities established by the Florida Legislature. FLATE and FESC are also working in collaboration with the National Science Foundation-funded Energy Systems Technology Technicians (EST<sup>2</sup>) project team to design a new specialization for the engineering technology degree and associated college credit certificate. The EST<sup>2</sup> project team comprises individuals from Brevard Community College, Florida State College at Jacksonville, [Tallahassee Community College](#) and Hillsborough Community College.

Dr. Marilyn Barger, executive director of FLATE says "FLATE's partnership with FESC is part of a statewide initiative to support industries in the existing and emerging energy sectors by defining the knowledge

and skills required for their technician workforce." With support from industry and partnerships with the Florida Department of Education, and the Banner Centers for Energy, Alternative Energy, Manufacturing and Construction, Barger hopes "to build a comprehensive and cohesive educational and industry pathway for Florida's new energy."

For more information on the energy camp contact Nina Stokes at 813.259.6587/[stokes@fl-ate.org](mailto:stokes@fl-ate.org). For information on FESC contact Dr. Marilyn Barger at 813.259.6578/[barger@fl-ate.org](mailto:barger@fl-ate.org).

FLATE is a National Science Foundation Regional Center of Excellence, committed to ensuring Florida has a well prepared workforce for advanced and emerging technologies. Created in 2004, FLATE is one of 46 Advanced Technological Education Centers in the United States funded by the National Science Foundation focused on improving science, technology, engineering, and mathematics education and training to meet the needs of American advanced technology industries. For more information visit [www.fl-ate.org](http://www.fl-ate.org).

FESC is a consortium of 11 Florida Universities legislatively created in 2008. The Consortium was charged to 'perform research and development on innovative energy systems that lead to alternative energy strategies, improved energy efficiencies, and expanded economic development for the state.' The FESC-FLATE partnership defines

FLATE as FESC's Core Facility for community college technical workforce education development and deployment throughout the state. For more information visit [www.fl-ate.org/projects/fesc](http://www.fl-ate.org/projects/fesc), or [www.floridaenergy.ufl.edu](http://www.floridaenergy.ufl.edu).

## TCC hosts GED graduation ceremony June 28

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. - [Tallahassee Community College](#) and the Center for Workforce Development will host its annual General Education Development (GED) graduation ceremony at 6 p.m., Thursday, June 28 in Turner Auditorium.

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

Seventy-eight individuals will receive their GED diploma on Thursday evening. Among the graduates are valedictorian Apollo Lambert (highest score on the GED exam), salutatorian Joseph Kennedy (second highest score on the GED exam) and honor graduates Jared Burton, Sasha Chambliss, Cherie Cook, Merideth Hatcher, John Lilly, and Sierra Miles.

Honor graduates must score above 3000 on the GED exam. Students must score 2250 on the GED exam to receive a diploma.

The graduation speaker will be attorney Benjamin Crump of Parks and Crump Attorneys at Law.

The program will also feature remarks from [TCC](#) President Jim Murdaugh, Harriett Abrams, Adult Education Program Coordinator, and student speakers Quita Conyers and Laketra Lewis.

According to Abrams, 35 of the graduates are currently enrolled or scheduled to enroll in credit courses at [TCC](#) in the fall.

The following are some of the success stories from the GED Class of 2012:

Maria Rhoades began the GED program in summer 2011. A newcomer to the United States, she enrolled in [TCC's](#) ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages) Program to improve her English skills. After two months, Maria transitioned to the GED program. There, she excelled in her studies and was given an opportunity to participate in a "Manpower" job search, a program that helped her land a full-time position at a local retail store.

Laketra Lewis was an evening student in [TCC's](#) Adult Education program while, at the same time, holding down a full-time job at a local restaurant. In addition to school and work, Laketra participated in the Home Healthcare Companion Course, a joint effort between [TCC's](#) Adult Education Program and the Applied Health Program that prepares students to care for patients in their home. Laketra was able to complete the course, has a position as a home healthcare specialist and has her own clients. She is currently enrolled as a full-time student at [TCC](#) majoring in business management.

Quita Conyers is a woman on a mission. A single mother of four boys, Quita passed her GED exam in October 2011. While working on her GED diploma, she was also enrolled at Lively Technical Center, where she worked on her culinary arts degree. Quita is now enrolled at Kaplan University and is pursuing a bachelor's degree in nutrition and science.

## TCC wins \$100K Walmart PRESS for Completion grant

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. (June 28, 2012) – **Tallahassee Community College** was selected as one of 15 community colleges across the country to win a \$100,000 Walmart PRESS for Completion grant.

The grant program, sponsored by the Walmart Foundation and administered by Achieving the Dream, a national nonprofit leading the nation's most comprehensive non-governmental reform network for community college student success, will enable **TCC** to better engage faculty (especially adjunct faculty) and staff in important campus-based reform efforts and ensure that more students have a better chance of staying in school and obtaining a market-valued credential.

"**TCC** has met high standards of practice and performance and is well-positioned to tackle one of the toughest community college reform challenges our nation is facing: engaging more full-time and adjunct faculty and staff in student success efforts," said Rachel Singer, Vice President of Achieving the Dream, Inc.

Nationwide, while great strides have been made at community colleges for student success, the proportion of faculty (including adjunct faculty) and student services personnel deeply engaged in the work is modest compared to the total number of faculty and staff at the colleges. Further, the reform work has not yet eliminated disconnections between academic departments and student services limiting vital collaboration.

**TCC** is an Achieving the Dream Leader College, a network of 50 colleges known for their commitment to student-centered evidence-based reforms and outstanding increases in student outcomes. Achieving the Dream Leader Colleges are deemed a most ideal network for testing and expanding innovative faculty and staff engagement strategies.

Through a competitive process, including 50 eligible Achieving the Dream Leader Colleges, **TCC** was selected as a grant recipient in the Walmart PRESS for Completion grant program. The grant will include a 27-month process during which time **TCC** will receive technical assistance and support from Achieving the Dream. In addition, **TCC** has agreed to serve as a peer coach and be active in the learning community among the other 175+ colleges in the larger Achieving the Dream National Reform Network. Ultimately, at least 100,000 students stand to benefit directly, and 3.75 million indirectly, from the collective

work of the selected colleges.

Representatives from **TCC** participated in the inaugural Walmart PRESS for Completion Grant Recipient Kickoff Institute at the Hyatt Hotel in Reston, VA from June 24, 2012 – June 26, 2012.

The following are all 15 colleges that were selected into the Walmart PRESS for Completion grant program:

- Aiken Technical College (Aiken, SC)
- Alamo Colleges (San Antonio, TX)
- Brazosport College (Lake Jackson, TX)
- Community College of Beaver County (Monaca, PA)
- Cuyahoga Community College (Cleveland, OH)
- Durham Technical Community College (Durham, NC)
- Guilford Technical Community College (Jamestown, NC)
- Northampton Community College (Bethlehem, PA)
- Northern Essex Community College (Haverhill, MA)
- Orangeburg-Calhoun Technical College (Orangeburg, SC)
- Pulaski Technical College (North Little Rock, AR)
- Roxbury Community College (Boston, MA)
- Tallahassee Community College** (Tallahassee, FL)
- Valencia College (Orlando, FL)
- Yakima Valley Community College (Yakima, WA)

## TCC welcomes local vendors with special event

Courtney Hutchinson

**Tallahassee Community College** invites local businesses to lay the groundwork for new opportunities at the College's first local vendor expo on August 7.

Locally owned businesses and locally owned franchises will be able to meet with **TCC** staff who are responsible for purchasing goods and services to discuss what they offer and how that connects with the College's needs.

The event begins at 8 a.m. with a breakfast and welcome for vendors and other visitors.

The vendor expo is set for 9 to 11:30 a.m. All the action will occur in rooms 105, 107, 109 and 111 of the Workforce Development building on **TCC's** main campus at 444 Appleyard Drive. There is no cost to participate, and vendors may register online at [www.tcc.fl.edu/tccvendorexpo](http://www.tcc.fl.edu/tccvendorexpo).

According to **TCC** President Jim Murdaugh, the event is expected to benefit both sides of the purchasing equation.

"We want to support local businesses whenever we can, because that's good for our community. It's also good for the College because Big Bend businesses offer high-quality goods and services at competitive prices, which helps **TCC** meet its goals and be as productive as possible," said Murdaugh.

Other public, not-for-profit and private agencies and businesses are also welcome to attend and meet with registered vendors.

For information, contact Bobby Hinson, Purchasing Director, at (850) 201-6071 or [hinsonb@tcc.fl.edu](mailto:hinsonb@tcc.fl.edu).



## OSU star Cunningham is drafted, then traded

### The Associated Press

DALLAS (AP) — Now that the NBA draft is done, the Dallas Mavericks can concentrate on their expected pursuit of hometown All-Star guard Deron Williams.

They certainly hope that free agency turns out as well as their draft did.

The Mavericks traded the 17th overall pick, their highest since 2000, and moved down seven spots. They said they still got the player they wanted in the first round, Oregon State guard Jared Cunningham, while adding two early second-round picks also expected to be part of their roster next season.

"We wanted to get some hard-playing, energetic-type kids. ... We feel it was a good night for us," coach Rick Carlisle said. "It's a time of change right now. We're going to load up on the right kind of guys and we're going to coach the heck out of them."

After using the 17th overall pick to get 7-foot North Carolina center Tyler Zeller, the Mavericks then traded his draft rights along with guard Kelenna Azubuike to Cleveland for three selections.

Before that deal was formally approved by the NBA, the Cavaliers made three selections for the Mavericks.

Along with Cunningham, Dallas also got the draft rights to Bernard James, a 27-year-old center and Air Force veteran from Florida State selected 33rd overall, and Marquette forward Jae Crowder, the Big East Player of the Year taken with the next pick.

"Overall, it was a great draft," owner Mark Cuban said. "If we would have just gotten the one guy we liked, but we got three guys that we think are going to come in and play for us."

Cunningham led the Pac-12 in steals the past two seasons. As a junior for the Beavers last season, he averaged 17.9 points, which was second in the Pac-12. Cunningham also had 91 steals, matching Gary Payton's mark as a junior, and averaged 3.8 rebounds.

"Cunningham was in the mix at 17, in that area. We felt there was a good likelihood that he would be there (lower), so we rolled the bones a little bit, and picked up two second-round picks to boot," general manager Donnie Nelson said. "Two guys that can come in and fight for a position."

The 6-foot-10 James joined the Air Force in 2003 and did three tours in the Middle East. After leaving the Air Force, he went to [Tallahassee Community College](#), then played the last two years with Florida State, averaging 10.8 points, 8.1 rebounds and 2.3 blocked shots a game last season.

When James' name was called out in New Jersey, there were chants of "U-S-A!, U-S-A!" as he made his way to the platform.

"James is a terrific shot-blocker and rebound, gives us a punch in the front court," Nelson said. "A guy that's got a lot of maturity and is a soldier, literally."

Crowder averaged 17.5 points and, 8.4 rebounds and 2.5 steals per game. The 6-foot-6 Crowder scored 20 points or more 13 times, and was in double figures in 31 of 35 games last season.

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The Mavericks had the oldest team in the NBA last season, when they were swept in the first round of the playoffs by Oklahoma City a year after winning their only NBA championship. They could undergo significant roster changes around perennial All-Star forward Dirk Nowitzki.

Guards Jason Kidd and Jason Terry are among six Dallas players who will become unrestricted free agents Sunday.

## OSU star Cunningham is drafted, then traded...

*continued*

Dallas covets the chance to get Williams, the Brooklyn Nets' All-Star guard who is from the Dallas area. Williams is expected to choose between Dallas and Brooklyn.

Williams tweeted Thursday that he had just finished playing golf with Kidd at East Hampton Golf Club in New York. His tweet included a line, "let the speculation begin?????" Kidd later responded to that with a tweet of his own, "Since you won that means we're going to .....!", obviously not finishing that thought.

Dallas also had the 55th overall pick, the second-round selection they got from the Los Angeles Lakers along with Lamar Odom before last season. The Mavs used it for another Marquette player and another Odom, guard Darius Johnson-Odom, whose rights were then traded to the Lakers.

An agreement was also in place for Lamar Odom to head back to Los Angeles for a second stint with the Clippers and Mo Williams will be reunited with Utah, a person with knowledge of that deal said Thursday night. The person spoke on condition of anonymity because the three-team deal between Dallas Mavericks, Clippers and Jazz was contingent on Williams exercising his \$8.5 million player option for next season.

Odom is due \$8.2 million next season, and Dallas faced a Friday deadline to a \$2.4 million buyout of that contract. The expected deal would instead mean an \$8.2 million trade exception for the Mavericks, similar to what they used to get Odom.

Adding Azubuike in the draft-night deal with Cleveland also added a little more cap flexibility for Dallas moving ahead to free agency.



## Whirlwind few days for Florida State's Bernard James

Former FSU star has been popular

Corey Clark

It was unlike anything he had ever experienced.

It was actually unlike anything anyone had ever experienced at the NBA Draft.

When Florida State's Bernard James was selected with the 33rd overall pick on Thursday night, a spontaneous and spine-tingling chant of "USA!" broke out among thousands of fans at the Prudential Center in Newark, N.J.

James, who was working out at the FSU basketball facility on Monday afternoon, said it was a moment he'll never forget.

"That was awesome," he said with a wide smile. "It was awesome. It was completely unexpected. They had been booing (NBA Commissioner) David Stern all night and when someone got drafted, half the fans would boo and half of them would cheer. So everybody was just kind of off doing their own thing.

"So just to see them all come together and chant 'USA!' ... I was just blown away."

Since that night James has been a popular interview subject for the national media. He estimated he did six interviews on Thursday night, including ESPN and NBA TV, and then after getting the weekend off was besieged with more requests on Monday.

He did a spot on "Fox and Friends" in the morning and appeared on CNN later in the day. He also said he had six radio interviews on Monday as well.

"I just take it in stride," James said. "I figure it's just a part of basketball, especially at this level. I think it's a little bit of an anomaly at the college level, but at this level there's always going to be interviews and people wanting to talk to you."

But it's not typically like this. Not for a second-round draft pick anyway.

Of course, there is nothing about James' journey to the NBA that has been typical, having served three different tours overseas in the military before officially beginning his basketball career at [Tallahassee Community College](#).

It's why he was bombarded with interviews on draft night and then again on Monday.

"I do enjoy talking about the military," James said. "It brings more attention to the military, which I'm all for. I'm actually going to do some fundraising stuff for veterans once I get established in the NBA. So it feels good to actually be able to kind of be a beacon for the military and bring more attention to it."

His story already was well-known in college basketball circles after he helped lead FSU to the Sweet 16 in 2011 and an ACC title in 2012.

But when the Cleveland Cavaliers drafted the 6-foot-11 forward in the second round (subsequently trading him to the Dallas Mavericks) and the "USA!" chant broke out, James became a national story.

Ironically, the 27-year-old said he wasn't even sure he was going to attend the draft on Thursday night, but his mother insisted he be there so she could see him walk across that stage.

"I guess I should listen to her more often," James said with a laugh.

## 530 rising high school seniors in Tallahassee for "Boys State"

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. (WTXL) - More than 500 rising seniors from across the state of Florida have made their way to Tallahassee for the 69th session of the Florida American Legion's Boys State program.

The weeklong event kicked off Sunday afternoon at 2 at Florida State University with an opening session. Tallahassee Mayor John Marks and Leon County Commissioner John Dailey were on hand to offer welcoming remarks.

During the week, 530 students, called delegates, will earn dual enrollment course credit through a partnership with [Tallahassee Community College](#). The delegates are instructed in Florida law, history and government.

We're told in addition, students will get the chance to create a "51st" state with cities, counties, a three-branch state government, a daily newspaper and television news program while learning leadership qualities through teamwork exercises.

WCTV - July 9, 2012

## Living Well Foundation Helps Breast Cancer Patients and Their Families

Gina Pitisci

A local cancer foundation provides both financial and social assistance to breast cancer patients with school aged children.

Joanna Francis is a single mom with 3 teenage boys and was diagnosed with breast cancer in 2005. She says "I thought I was on that road to recovery and then in 3 years, I was re-diagnosed and I had several bone metastases and started popping up along the way." Through her journey to beat breast cancer, Joanna realized that people going through cancer treatment not only need medical support but could also use support from the community and with that in November 2011, the Living Well Foundation was born.

Francis states "there are needs that are unforeseen so this was able our idea is to get the people involved and share their services to patients and their families." Co-Founder of Living Well and also Nurse Educator at [Tallahassee Community College](#), Jennifer Taylor, says their goal is to help the entire family and care group of the patient come together and feel like they are all supported. According to Taylor, "the patient is receiving treatment but you also have the spouse, the sister, the mother who has to balance everything else, the mortgage, co-payments, still getting the kids to school, all of those services so making sure the whole group feels supported."

The Living Well Foundation assists in providing the social and financial assistance for non-medical expenses. Francis says the grants can "go from anything from utilities to yard work, cell phone services, hotel if they need to travel for their appointments, some patients do choose to go out of town, gas cards, counseling for children if they need that, there is a wide variety." Taylor says "our goal is to help one patient every month, we've met that so far, and we've averaged that out."

If you or someone you know has been diagnosed with cancer, Francis gives this advice, "learn as much as you can and keep moving forward."

Breast cancer patients from initial diagnosis through admission to hospice that are living in the state of Florida may be eligible for grants to cover living expenses and needed services. To learn more about the Living Well Foundation, their upcoming fundraisers or to make a donation, log on to [www.joannafrancislivingwell.org](http://www.joannafrancislivingwell.org) or call (850) 508-3622.

## ATD Colleges Get Grants To Boost Faculty, Staff Involvement

By Paul Bradley

Fifteen community colleges will each receive a \$100,000 grant from the Walmart Foundation to bolster faculty and staff engagement in student success efforts being promoted by the Achieving the Dream reform effort.

Each college already has been designated a “leader colleges” by ATD, a national nonprofit group promoting non-governmental college reform aimed at improving community college student success. Leader Colleges are selected based on their commitment to and progress on four principles: committed leadership, use of evidence to improve programs and services, broad engagement, and systemic institutional improvement. They must also show three years of sustained improvement of student success.

The grants are intended to get faculty and staff more involved in student success efforts.

“These 15 Achieving the Dream Leader Colleges have met high standards of practice and performance and are well-positioned to tackle one of the toughest community college reform challenges our nation is facing: engaging more full-time and adjunct faculty and staff in student success efforts,” said Rachel Singer, vice president of Achieving the Dream, Inc.

While community colleges have made significant strides in boosting student success rates, the proportion of faculty, including adjunct faculty, and student services personnel deeply engaged in the work is small compared to the total number of faculty and staff at the colleges. Moreover, reform work has yet to knock down the silos between academic departments and student services that limit vital collaboration, according to ATD.

Achieving the Dream Leader Colleges, known for their commitment to student-centered, evidence-based reforms were deemed a most ideal network of colleges for testing and expanding innovative faculty and staff engagement strategies. The 15 colleges were selected to receive a Walmart PRESS (Persistence, Retention, and Student Success) grant.

The grant will include a 27-month process during which the selected colleges will receive technical assistance and support from Achieving the Dream. In addition, each selected college has agreed to serve as a peer coach and be active in the learning community among the more than 175 colleges in the Achieving the Dream network.

The winning colleges are Aiken Technical College (Aiken, S.C.); Alamo Colleges, (San Antonio, Texas); Brazosport College (Lake Jackson, Texas); Community College of Beaver County (Monaca, Pa.); Cuyahoga Community College (Cleveland, Ohio); Durham Technical Community College (Durham, N.C.); Guilford Technical Community College (Jamestown, N.C.); Northampton Community College, (Bethlehem, Pa.); Northern Essex Community College (Haverhill, Mass.); Orangeburg-Calhoun Technical College (Orangeburg, S.C.); Pulaski Technical College (North Little Rock, Ark.); Roxbury Community College (Boston, Mass.); **Tallahassee Community College** (Tallahassee, Fla.); Valencia College (Orlando, Fla.) and Yakima Valley Community College (Yakima, Wash.)

## Former DEP deputy secretary Ballard lands at Wakulla Environmental Institute

Bruce Ritchie

Former Department of Environmental Protection Deputy Secretary Bob Ballard has been appointed executive director of the Wakulla Environmental Institute at [Tallahassee Community College](#).

Ballard was DEP's deputy secretary for land and recreation for 12 years when he abruptly resigned last September to pursue other interests, according to a resignation letter. He resigned following controversies involving proposed RV campgrounds in four state parks including Wakulla Springs.

Related Research: Read Bob Ballard's resignation letter from September 2011.

The Wakulla Environmental Center was created with a \$4.5 million appropriation in the FY 2012-13 state budget. The appropriation survived despite being targeted by Florida TaxWatch for veto as a wasteful budget "turkey."

[TCC](#) says the institute will highlight Wakulla County's natural heritage and biodiversity while offering science and technology education opportunities and serving as an economic driver for the region. The institute will offer new programs in environmental science technology, hospitality and tourism, aquaculture management and agribusiness.

While Ballard was at DEP, Florida's state parks twice achieved gold medals from the National Recreation and Park Association. A [TCC](#) news release also mentioned other DEP accomplishments related to state greenways and trails including paving the St. Marks rail trail.

"Bob's experience in the realms of both education and environmental issues make him uniquely qualified to lead the Wakulla Environmental Institute, where those two priorities will intersect," [TCC](#) President Jim Murdaugh, who appointed Ballard, said in the news release.

Ballard started on July 2 earning an annual salary of \$120,000, which is the same amount he earned at DEP. The opening was not advertised, said Alice Maxwell, [TCC](#)'s director of communications and public information.

Neither Ballard nor Murdaugh could be reached on Monday, Maxwell said. Ballard is the brother of heavyweight Tallahassee lobbyist Brian Ballard.

## Top leaders to be honored in the fall

### T.K. Wetherell among honorees

DAVE HODGES

Leadership Tallahassee has announced the finalists in its 2012 Distinguished Leadership Awards, which will be presented at a banquet in September.

Now in their 18th year, the awards honor outstanding community leaders in several categories. The Lifetime Leadership Award honoree is T.K. Wetherell, former president of Florida State University, state legislator and educator.

The honor recognizes an individual with 10 to 25 years of community involvement who has demonstrated consistent civic leadership and “begun to achieve results beyond a single field of endeavor, combining efforts in business and nonprofit organizations,” Leadership Tallahassee said.

Barbara Boone, executive director of Leadership Tallahassee, a division of the Greater Tallahassee Chamber of Commerce, said Wetherell has demonstrated consistent, capable leadership during a long career in education and public service.

“We think it’s very appropriate for him to be our honoree in this, our 30th year,” she added.

The recipients of three other unique awards will be named at the banquet, which will be held Sept. 20 at the University Center Club. The Leader of the Year award goes to an individual whose ideas, vision and hard work achieved significant, tangible benefits for the community within the past year.

The finalists for this award are Dean Caryn Beck-Dudley of the FSU College of Business, Leon County Administrator Vince Long, Tallahassee Memorial HealthCare President and CEO Mark O’Bryant, [Tallahassee Community College](#) President Jim Murdaugh, and Ed Murray Jr., president of NAI Talcot Commercial Real Estate.

The Leadership Pacesetter is an individual blazing a trail for others to follow by engaging in community leadership activities — and achieving tangible results — as a newcomer to Tallahassee, at a relatively young age, or in a non-traditional field. Individuals with less than 10 years of community involvement would be eligible for this award.

Pacesetter finalists are Keith Bowers, executive director of the Florida A&M University Small Business Development Center; Louis Garcia, Big Brothers and Big Sisters of the Big Bend; First Commerce Credit Union President and CEO Cecilia Homison; Barby Moro of the Southern Scholarship Foundation; and Casie Reinholt of the Social Design Group.

The Servant Leadership Award honors an individual who has demonstrated consistent community leadership and begun to achieve results beyond a single field of endeavor, combining efforts in business and nonprofit organizations. Finalists are Larry DiPietro, Capital City Banc Investments; Susan Pourciau, executive director of the Big Bend Homeless Coalition; retired FSU administrator Sherrill Ragans; Mike Sheridan of FBMC Benefits Management Co.; and Col. Gene Sherron, U.S. Army (retired) and FSU (retired).



## Finalists announced in annual Distinguished Leadership Awards

### Business Matters Staff Report

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The Leadership Pacesetter recognizes an individual who is blazing a trail for others to follow by engaging in community leadership activities – and achieving tangible results – as a newcomer to Tallahassee, at a relatively young age (under 50), or in a non-traditional field.

Individuals with less than 10 years of community involvement would be eligible for this award. The finalists are Keith Bowers, executive director of the Florida A&M University Small Business Development Center; Louis Garcia, Big Brothers and Big Sisters of the Big Bend; First Commerce Credit Union President and CEO Cecilia Homison; Barby Moro of the Southern Scholarship Foundation; and Casie Reinholt of the Social Design Group.

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Col. Gene Sherron, U.S. Army (retired) and FSU (retired).

## Godby grad ready for MMA fight

### Rookie Valdez a fan favorite

St. Clair Murraine

Rookie mixed martial arts fighter Rafael Valdez wasn't sure what to make of the call when he was summoned from the back of the store where he works.

At first he thought it was a prank when a coworker told him that he had a visitor who was asking for his autograph.

"I laughed because I thought he was joking, but he was serious," Valdez said. "He just walked up to me and was like, 'I want your autograph.' I thought he was pulling my leg."

Things got a little more interesting a few weeks ago when Valdez, who has gained immense popularity since his first local bout six months ago, got a phone call.

His former high school wrestling coach was on the the other end telling the former Godby High standout that someone was wearing the T-shirt that he wore into the cage for his last bout in April.

On the night of his fight, the crowd went bunkers when he entered the cage. Their cheering was off the charts when he scored a decision victory to capture the Northwest Florida featherweight title.

Considering his growing popularity, the place could be just as maddening when defends the belt tonight. He takes on undefeated Mike Galitello (3-0) in the headline bout on an all-amateur card at The Moon.

Through all of the hoopla, Valdez (3-1), somehow is managing to keep a cool head. He hasn't shown off the belt that he won, instead keeping it tucked away at home since the night he became champion.

The attention has been good for Valdez, said his trainer Josh Samman.

"I think he has a new confidence about him because people around town and around the gym have been calling him champ," Samman said. "It's pretty deserved. He worked hard for it."

He will be facing his toughest opponent to date in Galtello and the 22-year-old [Tallahassee Community College](#) sophomore said that's fine with him.

"I don't tell anybody I'm better than them," Valdez said. "I don't feel like I'm the best. I have passion and motivation. I don't train to fight a certain fighter. I train to win."

"It's tough but one of the biggest things my high school wrestling coach used to tell me is if you want to be the best the only way you can do it is by going through the best. I've got to put it out there on the best guys. I want to beat the legends because the legends are the ones that go through the baddest of the bad."

While he will have a lot of support tonight, what most of his fans don't know is the agony he endures to be successful.

Valdez works a full-time job, attends classes at [TCC](#) and puts in at least two hours each weekday in the gym. He follows each gym session with weight training.

On top of that he has to manage his weight so that he doesn't give his opponent an edge.

He has to cut at least 15 pounds from his walk-around to make the 145-pound limit for the title fight. He says he is getting better at adjusting to the weight.

"I don't feel sluggish," Valdez said. "I'm not tired. I feel the best in the ring. I rest real well the night before and I hydrate myself to build my body up. The key is rest."



## Learning the value of a college education

Bonnie Holub

College was not an option. It was a given.

From an early age, I often heard the word "college" mentioned whenever my mother discussed future plans for her only child. Mother, a high school graduate and single mom, understood the value of higher education. There was no discussion about me doing anything after high school graduation, except college. In fact, I was enrolled and attending the University of Iowa's summer session about a month after graduation night.

Near the completion of my freshman year, I mentioned to Mother that I wasn't sure I wanted to go back to school. She wasn't happy to hear that, but didn't lecture. In fact, I was surprised by how little she said. She even helped me obtain a summer job at Collins Radio Company in Cedar Rapids, where she had connections. Collins Radio was internationally known for supplying communications equipment for manned spacecraft, including Projects Mercury, Gemini and Apollo.

My work for the next three months required hand-painting tiny screw heads for eight to 10 hours a day. The color-coded screws had to be individually and precisely painted. One day while carrying my freshly painted products, I dropped a pallet of 99 screws on the floor. They rolled helter skelter underfoot and under workbenches and bounced into machinery. I felt like Lucy and Ethel as I scrambled on hands and knees to retrieve the tiny objects before my supervisor came around.

From that summer's work, I learned many things, including how to rise before dawn and be on the job by 6 a.m., how to punch a time clock, the consequences of being late, and the culture of a factory environment. That summer I enjoyed my co-workers, break time and the money. By the end of the summer I also learned the high value of a higher education ... at least for me.

If college is for you, or you think college might be for you, or if you're just curious about college offerings in Wakulla, you are invited to attend one of two public forums this week at the [Tallahassee Community College](#) Wakulla Center in Crawfordville, where I serve as director.

The purpose of the forums is to find out what our Wakulla community would like to have available at the new [TCC](#) Wakulla Center site, soon to be opened at the north end of the Centennial Bank building in Crawfordville.

As [TCC](#) adds to its offerings in Wakulla County, it is important to know what services and programs will best serve the Wakulla community.

In addition, the forum will provide the opportunity for participants to learn about [TCC](#) offerings, including proposed credit courses in Wakulla, noncredit workforce-development programs, enrollment services, placement testing, advising, career planning, financial aid and scholarship opportunities.

Bring your thoughts and suggestions, and maybe even your mom, to the [TCC](#) Wakulla Center public forum on Wednesday, July 18, 6-7:30 p.m. or Saturday, July 21, 10-11:30 a.m. Each forum will be held at the present [TCC](#) Wakulla Center location at 5 Crescent Way in Crawfordville, about one mile south of the Wakulla County Courthouse, next to Gulf Coast Lumber. If you are unable to attend but would like to share your thoughts, please email your ideas to [holubb@tcc.fl.edu](mailto:holubb@tcc.fl.edu).

## Thomas Dickens eyes State House District 7 seat

VALERIE GARMAN

PANAMA CITY — Thomas Dickens decided to seek the Florida House District 7 seat after a tour in Iraq made him realize the need for energy independence in the United States.

"I served in Iraq and while I was there I determined we didn't need to be anywhere for energy security," Dickens said. "We have tools in District 7 to gain energy independence."

Dickens cited two research labs, a biorefinery in Taylor County and a marine research lab in Franklin County, as the district's contribution to moving Florida toward energy independence.

"I don't think that it is the only answer but this is the piece of the puzzle that we can contribute," he said. "This initiative would create jobs. I think our pathway to energy independence is through agriculture."

Dickens will face Robert Hill and A.J. Smith in the Democratic primary Aug. 14. Republicans seeking the District 7 seat include Halsey Beshears, Jamey Westbrook, Mike Williams and Don Curtis.

Due to redistricting, there is no incumbent in the District 7 race. District 7 includes nine rural counties in Northwest Florida: Lafayette, Taylor, Jefferson, Gulf, Madison, Wakulla, Franklin, Calhoun and Liberty, and also the southwest corner of Leon County.

Dickens served in the U.S. Army for 13 years and deployed to Iraq with the 25th Infantry Division. He is a husband and father, a top priority for Dickens.

He said he wants to make sure his 2-year-old son grows up with the same freedoms he enjoyed.

Dickens is an attorney with the Tallahassee law firm Eubanks, Barrett, Fasig and Brooks and also teaches biology at [Tallahassee Community College](#).

As an educator, Dickens also wants to make sure the state adequately funds its public education system.

He opposes the privatization of Florida's schools and prisons and vows to work to keep existing jobs while also pushing job growth and development through his energy initiative.

"You always have the challenge to accurately represent everyone," Dickens said. "I truly believe that the guy that comes out of this is the guy that can build consensus among his constituents and see the big picture."

Read more: <http://www.newsherald.com/articles/thomas-104129-eyes-house.html#ixzz2103yaFaq>

## TCC to host public forums in Wakulla County

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. (July 16, 2012) – Tallahassee Community College wants to find out what Wakulla County residents want at the new TCC Wakulla Center, soon to be opened at the north end of the Centennial Bank building in Crawfordville.

TCC has scheduled two public forms, both of which will be held at the current TCC Wakulla Center, located at 5 Crescent Way in Crawfordville. The forums will take place Wednesday, July 18 from 6-7:30 p.m. and Saturday, July 21 from 10-11:30 a.m.

“As we partner on future offerings and expansions, we need to know what services and programs are important to Wakulla County,” said TCC President Jim Murdaugh.

The forums will give the Wakulla County community the opportunity to learn more about the goals of the new TCC Wakulla Center, including proposed credit courses, virtual academic support services and expansion of non-credit workforce program. Attendees can also learn more about the College’s programs of study, steps to start the enrollment process, placement testing, advising and career planning, and financial aid and scholarship opportunities.

Residents who are unable to attend but would like to share feedback can email Bonnie Holub at [holubb@tcc.fl.edu](mailto:holubb@tcc.fl.edu).

WTXL- July 18, 2012

## Fundraiser for scholarship named in fallen soldier’s honor July 21

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. - On Saturday, July 21, the family of PFC Brandon Michael King is holding the second annual fundraiser to support the Tallahassee Community College scholarship named in his honor. The fundraiser is from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. at Maddox Square, located at 502 N. Adams Street near the Governor’s Mansion.

PFC King was killed on July 14, 2010, during an attack by enemy forces at Combat Outpost Nolan, located in the southern Kandahar Province of Afghanistan.

The inaugural Brandon M. King Memorial Scholarship was awarded to Kenneth Turner in 2011. Turner was raised by a single mother who worked 3 jobs to support her family. He shares the same career dream as Brandon King did—becoming a video game designer. The second scholarship was awarded in 2012 to Lashondrika Washington, a member of the National Honor Society who is dually enrolled at TCC and FSU and plans to become a pharmacist.

The scholarship assists in covering tuition and fees, as well as books and other required class supplies.

Those unable to attend the fundraiser can also make donations online at [www.tcc.fl.edu/foundation](http://www.tcc.fl.edu/foundation) or by mailing a check to the TCC Foundation at 444 Appleyard Drive, Tallahassee, FL 32304 and remembering to designate the donation to the Brandon M. King Memorial Scholarship fund.

## Keeping colleges affordable and accountable

Matthew Dembick

Federal lawmakers this week are examining strategies to keep college affordable while ensuring that students are getting the education and training they need for available jobs.

On Wednesday, the House Higher Education and Workforce Training Subcommittee heard from national and state education leaders on what states and colleges are doing to curb college costs and to ensure results. The strategies discussed ranged from performance-based funding and accelerated credential completion, to credit for prior learning experiences and better credit-transfer policies.

On Thursday, the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee will hold its hearing on college costs. Invited speakers include Thomas Snyder, president of the Ivy Tech Community College system in Indiana, and Jim Murdaugh, president of [Tallahassee Community College](#) in Florida.

The hearings come as federal appropriators this week craft their proposed spending plan for fiscal year 2012. House Subcommittee Chair Virginia Foxx (R-N.C.) said that federal support for higher education increased 155 percent over the past decade, but college tuition continues to increase.

"If government subsidies aren't producing more affordable education in the current system, we cannot keep writing bigger checks," she said. "We need to look to states and postsecondary institutions for creative solutions."

Joe May, president of the Louisiana Community and Technical College System—which comprises 14 colleges and serves 111,000 students—outlined efforts in his state to reduce costs and improve student success. While Louisiana colleges are struggling financially—enrollment over the past five years has increased 55 percent, while state support has dropped by 37 percent—the system has taken myriad steps to run efficient and effective programs. By merging colleges, nixing redundant courses, aligning programs with market demands, consolidating information technology systems and sharing operations such as payroll and auditing services, the system is saving about \$30 million annually, according to May's written testimony.

Several of the panelists at the hearing noted that more students are opting to complete their general courses at two-year colleges and then transfer to a four-year institution to complete their bachelor's degree. When Louisiana examined its transfer process, it found that students who earned an associate degree were losing 21-24 semester credit hours in the transfer. Today, students who earn an associate degree at any Louisiana community college can easily transfer to Louisiana State University or any of the state's 14 universities as a junior, May said.

The change also yielded cost savings for students and the state. On average, students save \$2,117, while the state saves \$1,930 per transfer student, May said. In addition, transfer students with an associate degree also use about \$2,750 less in federal Pell Grants because it costs them less to earn their baccalaureate.

### Credit hour creep

While examining the transfer process, officials noted inconsistencies with the number of hours needed to earn an associate degree. Over time, many of the programs had grown from the standard 60 semester credit hours to as many as 75, May said.

"This sort of credit hour creep had to be changed," he said.

In 2010, state lawmakers limited all but a few associate degrees to 60 semester credit hours. The change resulted in a savings of about \$1,100 for students and for the state about \$792 per student, May said.

"Most importantly, it reduces time to degree," he added.

Reducing time-to-degree was another strategy that panelists discussed. Stan Jones, president of Complete College America, said that fewer than three in 10 students pursuing an associate degree graduate in three years. And the more time they spend in college, the more costs add up, often resulting in students dropping out without a credential, he said.

Jones also noted that better data is needed on part-time students, adult students and students who receive Pell Grants to determine what types of programs and policies would help those students earn credentials.

## Keeping colleges affordable and accountable...

*continued*

### Paying for performance

Indiana has also implemented a multi-strategy approach. In 2003, the state started using performance-based funding to increase research at public colleges and universities. Over the years, the formula changed to focus on degree completion, on-time completion and success of at-risk students, said Teresa Lubbers, commissioner of the Indiana Commission on Higher Education. In the 2011-13 biennial budget, the state set aside 5 percent—about \$61 million—of overall state support to college and universities toward performance funding, she said.

Some states may be limited in their ability to use performance-based funding, noted Scott Patterson, executive director of the National Association of State Budget Officers. The “maintenance of effort” provision in the federal 2008 Higher Education Opportunity Act calls for a certain level of state funding in order to be eligible for federal funding. So states have less flexibility to allocate resources based on need and evidence, and it also serves as a disincentive to make larger or one-time increases toward higher education during better fiscal times, he said.

Accelerated completion also was discussed at the hearing. Lubbers cited Ivy Tech’s Associate Accelerated Program (ASAP), which allows students to complete a two-year degree in 10 months, as an innovative model. It’s an intensive program that requires students to be on campus for 40 hours each week for coursework and group study. Students are encouraged to think of the course as a full-time job and are even provided a \$5,200 annual stipend to cover living expenses, Lubbers said.

## C-SPAN - July 19, 2012

## College, University Leaders Testify on College Affordability

The Senate Health, Education, Labor & Pension Committee holds a hearing on strategies for controlling the cost of a college degree.

Witnesses included representatives from both large state schools and small community colleges.

Tuition at four-year universities have increased exponentially since 1980, and the average student graduates with around \$20,000 in student loan debt. For students at private colleges, the total can often be several times that.

For public universities and community colleges, the budget crises in many states have led to lower state funding and higher tuition bills for students. In an address to the National Governors Association last weekend, Education Secretary Arne Duncan urged the governors to address the issue.

This hearing, chaired by Senator Tom Harkin (D-IA), is seeking to highlight strategies and current practices for keeping college costs down.

Don Heller, dean of the College of Education at Michigan State University; Steven Leath, president of Iowa State University; Jim Murdaugh, president of [Tallahassee Community College](#); Thomas J. Snyder, president of Ivy Tech Community College in Bloomington, Ind.; and Carol Twigg, president and CEO of the National Center for Academic Transformation, a group that focuses on the use of technology in education, testified.



## College Officials Call For Reforms To Lower Higher Education Costs

Elizabeth Vlock

With the recent student loan interest rate bill set to expire next year, a panel of education experts made a series of suggestions Thursday to make college more affordable including mandatory financial literacy classes so students can understand their loans, revamping the pell grant system, clarifying the exact costs of college beyond tuitions to help families make more informed decisions, reducing the number of textbooks required per course, and expanding internet classes.

The panel, which included the Dean of the College of Education at Michigan State University Dr. Don Heller, Dr. Steven Leath, President of Iowa State University, Dr. Jim Murdaugh, President of [Tallahassee Community College](#), Thomas Snyder, President of Ivy Tech Community College, and Dr. Carol Twigg, President and CEO of the National Center for Academic Transformation, appeared before the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions.

The focus of the hearing somewhat revolved around finding more permanent solutions to the student loan debt crisis in the wake of loan debts totaling over \$1 trillion, surpassing credit card debt in America.

Committee Chairman Senator Tom Harkin (D-Iowa) stated that the hearing stemmed from the fact that “over the past decade state and local funding per student dropped by 25 percent while tuition and fees at four-year public schools increased by 72 percent... [which] for millions of young people, these trends are putting the American dream on hold.”

According to Heller, tuition prices in public and private institutions have gone up “more than three times faster than the median family income in the nation” putting college education further out of the reach of many Americans.

While the panel described many of the in-state college tuition costs being attributable to cuts in state-funding and administrative costs, Senator Lamar Alexander (R-Tenn.) argued that tuition has spiked due to the increased amount of state funds being diverted from education to the state Medicaid programs. Alexander explained that “30 years ago state budgets were 8 percent for Medicaid today they’re 25 percent... as long as the federal government requires states to continue to fund Medicaid in a preferential way public higher education, in my own view is going to be seriously damaged.”

Harkin refuted Alexander’s claims by pointing out that “Medicaid is not [mandatory] it’s not. It is matching money. No state has to do Medicaid; they don’t have to. But if they want the matching money they have to do certain things.” Harkin used Medicaid as a parallel to mandatory measures such as attendance in K-12 education that are required by law.

Senator Al Franken (D-Minn.) advocated for an end to many deceptive practices exercised by for-profit student loan companies. Franken is currently working on a bill concerning financial aid award letters. Explaining that “some schools letters do not even distinguish between grants and loans. I’ve seen some letters where they have a stafford loan, some code, they don’t even say it’s a loan it looks, for all purposes, especially when it’s an award letter, the word award, you usually don’t pay interest on an award,” Franken condemned the practice. The bill is designed to help families better understand the overall costs of college in determining where students enroll.

Senator Kay Hagan (D-N.C.) applauded her state’s early education for middle school and high school students that teaches youth how to manage their finances to better prepare them to understand the borrowing and debt repayments in advance of their college enrollment. Hagan pressed the issue stating “you cannot get by in their country without an understanding of debt.”

## Our Opinion: Democratic primary, Florida House, District 7

### Democrats can find fresh ideas with Dickens

New maps created by the Legislature created a huge geographic area for District 7 in the Florida House. The district includes a small portion of southwestern Leon County, but all of nine other counties: Calhoun, Franklin, Gulf, Jefferson, Madison, Lafayette, Liberty, Taylor and Wakulla.

While residents in these largely rural counties have their own concerns and expectations, there are some common interests, primarily protecting jobs, improving the economy and securing funding for schools.

Three Democrats are seeking this seat, including Thomas Dickens, an attorney from Tallahassee; Robert Hill, clerk of court/county administrator for Liberty County; and A.J. Smith, a retired law-enforcement officer and active charity organizer. The winner will face the winner in the four-candidate Republican field.

We're recommending Mr. Dickens for Democratic voters. He brings an energy and vision that separate him from his challengers, each of whom holds a strong record of community and public service.

Mr. Dickens is an attorney with Eubanks, Barrett, Fasig and Brooks and is a captain in the U.S. Army Reserve. He also teaches biology at [Tallahassee Community College](#). He previously worked as a prosecutor for the Florida Department of Health.

Mr. Dickens is proud of his career in the military, which included a tour in Iraq for 10 months in 2010. There he served as a judge advocate and got the idea that he wanted to get involved in public office. He also draws on his teaching experience to give him insight into how critical it is to fund education, especially in the fields of science, technology, engineering and math.

He's against privatization of state prisons because of the economic benefits those jobs provide in this district, where nine prisons are located. But Mr. Dickens also supports diversifying employment opportunities in North Florida by tapping into the research experts at Florida State and Florida A&M universities.

He said that, while serving in Iraq, it became clear to him that one of the reasons for the U.S. involvement was energy security. "We could do that right here in the United States," he said. "We are doing it right here in North Florida." He supports what's being done with bio-fuel research in Taylor County and sees the potential to further explore possibilities with the FSU marine research lab in Franklin County to use marine vegetation to produce energy.

He favors gaming "because we need revenue," but he wants to make sure that approval comes with strong regulations. He's also a supporter of the Second Amendment and, like the other candidates, would not advocate simply repealing the Stand Your Ground legislation.

Mr. Hill has lived in Bristol for 46 years and is currently Liberty County's clerk of court and county administrator. He's also a former Liberty County Schools superintendent and taught math and coached athletic teams for 25 years.

Mr. Smith spent 25 years in law enforcement and served with the Franklin County Sheriff's Office and the Leon County Sheriff's Office. He also worked as chief of law enforcement for the Division of Alcoholic Beverages and Tobacco.

Both men agree with Mr. Dickens on protecting state jobs, focusing on education and diversifying the economy.

But Mr. Dickens stands out among the Democratic candidates as a person who can serve our district well because of his fresh ideas and enthusiasm about exploring diverse economic opportunities.



## Taxes, budget focus in county

### Candidates for Leon County Commission at-large seat make their case to voters

Jennifer Portman

The four candidates vying for an at-large seat on the Leon County Commission made their case to voters for why they should be elected at a meeting Wednesday before the Tallahassee Democrat editorial board.

While the board will not be formally endorsing a candidate in the race, the meeting provided an opportunity for incumbent Commissioner Akin Akinyemi and challengers Emily Fritz, Mary Ann Lindley and Fred Varn to explain what makes them the best choice in the Aug. 14 primary election. If one candidate receives more than half the votes cast, he or she will win the seat. If not, the top-two vote-getters will face off in the November general election.

Akinyemi, who owns an architecture firm, says his first-term accomplishments, including shaping land-use policies and shepherding the county through tough budgetary times, support his return to the commission for another four years. He called himself a "pragmatic and compassionate community leader," who can be counted on for consistent leadership.

"I am proud about what I have done in a short period of time," he said.

His challengers, however, all said it is time for a new face on the board. Varn, a 12-year Leon County School Board member with state, local and private business experience, said he has a proven, vested interest in the community.

"The bottom line is experience," said Varn, who has pledged, if elected, to put his first-year commissioner salary into scholarships for [Tallahassee Community College](#) students. "Being a county commissioner is more than just voting on what is in front of you."

Lindley, who stepped down as longtime editorial page editor of the Tallahassee Democrat to run for the commission seat, said after 30 years as a journalist, researching and writing about community issues, it was time to bring her centrist approach and problem-solving skills to use, putting "my money where my mouth is."

"Journalism is an excellent training ground for public service," said Lindley, who also co-owned a book-publishing company for 20 years. "I do know this community very well."

Fritz, who has worked in the health-care field and in state government, set herself apart from her three competitors, stressing that she wants to streamline regulations and put more money in the pockets of taxpayers.

"I am a businesswoman and a fiscal conservative and the county needs that now, more than ever," she said. "I'm a new face. I'm not the status quo."

Questions during the hour-long meeting focused on two of the top issues currently facing the county: jobs and dealing with the county's \$10.2 budget shortfall.

Earlier this month, as part of a unanimous commission vote, Akinyemi supported a plan to raise the county's property-tax rate to balance the budget. Lindley said she too would have supported the plan, but Fritz said she would have opposed it. Varn said he didn't know how he would vote until he further analyzed the budget.

"I don't support tax increases, but sometimes, they may be necessary," Varn said.

Lindley said a state constitutional amendment to provide property-tax relief likely to be on the November ballot would help offset some of the county millage-rate increase. If elected, she said she also would look at duplicated services as the source of possible cuts.

"People still have a disconnect between what they want and what they want to pay for," she said.

If she were on the commission, Fritz said, she would never have allowed the county to get into such a financial bind. She suggested ending cost-of-living raises for employees, implementing a performance-based review system and analyzing every program for its return on investment.

"The taxpayers in Leon County already have one of the highest tax burdens in the state," she said.

But Akinyemi defended the county's decision.

"We have just cut and cut, and there is no more to cut," he said. "We can't continue to balance the budget on the backs of our staff."

Each candidate offered their own ideas for fostering job creation and economic development.

## **Taxes, budget focus in county...**

*continued*

Lindley said the county could help small businesses with infrastructure improvements and streamlining licensing and regulations. Fritz said more money should stay in taxpayers' pockets and called for a revision of the comprehensive plan to help developers. Akinyemi, however, warned against weakening regulations and pointed instead to the continuation of his past efforts to create micro-loans for business and help with the redevelopment of blighted areas. Varn called for tax breaks and other incentives to attract businesses to the county.

## Newsmakers

### TIMES STAFF

Ana Margarita "Cha" Guzmán has been named president of Santa Fe Community College (New Mexico), effective Sept. 4. She is currently president of Palo Alto College (Texas), where she has served for the past 12 years. A native of Cuba, she has been in educational administration for more than 30 years and is a leading voice for Hispanic Americans in education. Guzmán has also served as an associate vice chancellor of Texas A&M University and as executive vice president for institutional advancement, administration and community relations at Austin Community College (Texas).

Stacey Johnson will serve as president of East and Winter Park campuses of Valencia College in Florida beginning Aug. 6. Currently, she is vice president of academic affairs at Palo Alto College (PAC) in Texas. Previously at PAC, Johnson was chief instructional officer and dean of arts, humanities and social sciences. Johnson started her career in community colleges in public relations, where she served as director of marketing and assistant to the president of PAC.

Ronald Kraft has been named interim superintendent/president of Napa Valley College in California, effective Aug. 1. He has more than 20 years of experience in higher education leadership. Kraft, a graduate of Grossmont Community College (California), has served as president/CEO of various organizations, including Southern California University of Health Sciences and the Alliance for Corporate Education, an agency of Washington State Community and Technical Colleges.

### Obituary

William McCarter, who served as president of Alamance Community College (North Carolina) from 1981-1999, died this month at the age of 75. He also served as president of Southeastern Community College (North Carolina).

### Kudos

Clyde Muse, president of Hinds Community College (HCC) in Mississippi, this month received the inaugural Excellence in Government Award in Local and District Government from Gov. Phil Bryant. Muse was recognized for his innovative approach to providing affordable and accessible education, including his public/private partnership with the Army National Guard. He has served as president of HCC since 1978.

Brad Jenkins, professor and director of engineering technology at St. Petersburg College (SPC) in Florida, has been named the High Impact Technology Exchange Conference Educator of the Year, an honor that recognizes a community college educator's outstanding contributions to advanced technological education. Jenkins is also co-chair of the Florida Forum on Engineering Technology and has worked with the Florida Department of Education on restructuring the state common course numbering prefixes for all engineering technologies.

Magda Kieliszek, an instructor of vocational English for speakers of other languages at LaGuardia Community College's Center for Immigrant Education and Training (CIET), is a recipient of the 2012 Literacy Recognition Award from the Literacy Assistance Center in New York. Kieliszek was recognized for dedication to her students, as well as her contributions to the field of literacy and to CIET, which provides free civics, family literacy and workforce training courses to more than 500 adults annually.

### Appointments

Bob Ballard has been appointed executive director of the Wakulla Environmental Institute at **Tallahassee Community College (TCC)** in Florida. Previously, he served for 12 years as deputy secretary of the Florida Department of Environmental Protection's land and recreation office. He has also served as planning, budget and management coordinator and chief cabinet aide in the Florida Department of Education.

Kathleen Curphy will join Lake Washington Institute of Technology (Washington) as its vice president for academic affairs, effective Aug. 13. She brings more than 20 years of experience as a two-year college administrator in Minnesota, Missouri, Wisconsin and Iowa, 11 of those at the senior level, and has served as provost, chief academic officer and vice president.

Mary Davis has been appointed dean of graduate studies at the Fashion Institute of Technology (FIT) in New York. Davis comes to FIT from Case Western Reserve University in Ohio, where she was chair of the music department. She also served as associate director of the university's Baker-Nord Center for the Humanities and as director of the Culture, Creativity and Design Interdisciplinary Alliance.

## Two top Tallahassee Community College students blossom at MagLab

Kathleen Laufenberg

Thanks to a science-advocacy program for underrepresented minorities, two of the 17 college students doing MagLab internships this summer are from **Tallahassee Community College**.

Jessica Saintibert is doing cutting-edge research involving cholesterol and membranes that mimic the HIV virus, while Tallahassee native Jasmin Wilson is learning how to find trace elements in volcanic rocks.

"It's awesome being here," Saintibert, 20, said. "The people here are so passionate about their research, and they're so careful to make sure everything is done correctly. I was like, wow! The experience you get here ... it opens your mind up."

Searching for an HIV vaccine

Saintibert's mentor is Dr. Likai Song, whose groundbreaking research is aimed at solving one of the world's most complex medical challenges: the development of an HIV vaccine. Song is both a structural biologist and a physician, a MagLab scholar scientist and a research associate at Harvard Medical School and the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute in Boston, Mass.

Song was also singled out for a prestigious award from The Collaboration for AIDS Vaccine Discovery, an international network of scientists dedicated to advancing promising HIV-vaccine candidates to clinical trials. In 2011, the group designated him as one of its six Young/Early Career Investigator honorees.

"Working with Dr. Song has really opened my eyes to this disease," said Saintibert, a Haitian native whose family moved to Orlando when she was 14. "I knew there were a lot of people who had it, but I didn't realize there were, like, 34 million infected with HIV. They have treatments, but ... we need to get ahead of this disease and find a cure."

Saintibert has also worked closely with visiting Chinese scholar Lu Yu, who has shown her how an electron-magnetic-resonance instrument is used to analyze samples.

"I have 11 pages of notes about just turning on the machine, working with the software and how to get everything going smoothly," she said.

Diversity in science

Both Saintibert and Wilson are enrolled in **TCC's** Florida-Georgia Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation, a program funded by the National Science Foundation. Its goal is to increase the number of underrepresented minorities pursuing college degrees and careers in "STEM" subjects — science, technology, engineering and math.

"It's really helped me," said Saintibert, who hopes to become a medical doctor. "Especially the tutors, with my chemistry and math. That's how I passed inorganic chemistry and trigonometry."

"Both of them are wonderful model students and real leaders," said Calandra Stringer, **TCC's** associate dean of curriculum.

Wilson, 20, said she's been fascinated by the MagLab since elementary school.

"I can remember visiting with my class from W.T. Moore Elementary School when I was in the fifth-grade; it really made an impression on me," she said. "I was so excited when I heard I'd been accepted into the internship program, it made my day. This has really been a new and incredible experience. It has actually given me an insight into what I might be doing when I graduate."

Trace elements, tough competition

Wilson is working with Vincent Salters, the lab's director of geochemistry and an FSU professor, and with Rupsa Roy, a graduate research assistant. They've taught her how to use state-of-the-art equipment to detect niobium and tantalum, trace elements, in basaltic rocks. The presence of niobium and tantalum can signal that the rock came from deep in the earth's mantle.

"One of the most interesting things I've done is to learn how to use the clean labs," said the Lincoln High School graduate, who noted that it was her high-school science teacher Steve Fannin who first got her interested in chemistry.

## Two top Tallahassee Community College students blossom at MagLab...

*continued*

In a clean lab, you must remove your shoes, cover your feet in special booties and wear a special lab coat, hood or hair net and sometimes even protective glasses.

Competition is fierce for a paid summer internship in the MagLab's Research Experiences for Undergraduates program. This year, 153 highly qualified applicants applied for the 17 slots.

Once accepted, interns assist in pioneering research in physics, chemistry, biological sciences, geochemistry, magnet science and engineering. They learn firsthand how to use advanced technology while working alongside some of the finest scientists, magnet designers and engineers in the world.

The National High Magnetic Field Laboratory develops and operates state-of-the-art, high-magnetic-field facilities that faculty and visiting scientists and engineers use for research. The laboratory is sponsored by the National Science Foundation and the state of Florida. To learn more visit [www.magnet.fsu.edu](http://www.magnet.fsu.edu).



## TCC named among best places to work

Local college receives national kudos

Doug Blackburn

It's been a heady month in the national spotlight for [Tallahassee Community College](#).

Jim Murdaugh, [TCC's](#) president, testified before a U.S. Senate panel studying college affordability on July 19 about how the 14,000-student school was able to avoid raising tuition for the coming school year.

And in Monday's edition of the highly respected *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, [TCC](#) was named one of the country's "great colleges to work for." [TCC](#) was one of five Florida schools among the 103 that were recognized in the *Chronicle's* survey of 294 educational institutions nationwide.

[TCC](#) actually made the "honor roll" after receiving top marks in seven different categories, including collaborative governance and confidence in senior leadership.

"It speaks volumes about the culture of our college," Murdaugh said. "One of the fundamental values that I hold dear is that I want to be the college of choice for our faculty and staff. I want people here because they love this particular college."

The list of colleges was part of the *Chronicle's* fifth annual report on the academic workplace. The national publication polled faculty and staff to independently quantify specific best practices and policies. The other Florida schools named Monday were Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, Lynn University, Miami Dade College and Rollins College. Rollins was the only other Florida school to make the honor roll.

"The institutions that the great colleges program recognizes provide innovative educational experiences — while also offering their employees outstanding workplace experiences — and we are eager to help readers learn more about them," said Liz McMillen, *The Chronicle's* editor.

\*\* Also published by WTXL, WCTV,

## TCC Named a "2012 Great College to Work For"

[Tallahassee Community College](#) is one of the best colleges in the nation to work for, according to a new survey by *The Chronicle of Higher Education*.

The results, released today in *The Chronicle's* fifth annual report on *The Academic Workplace*, are based on a survey of more than 46,000 employees at 294 colleges and universities.

In all, only 103 of the 294 institutions achieved "Great College to Work For" recognition for specific best practices and policies. Results are reported for small, medium and large institutions, with [TCC](#) included among the large universities with 10,000 or more students.

[TCC](#) won honors in seven categories:

Collaborative Governance

Confidence in Senior Leadership

Facilities, Workplace and Security

Job Satisfaction

Professional and Career Development Programs

Supervisor of Department Chair Relationships

Teaching Environment

[TCC](#) was one of only 42 institutions to also earn a spot on the report's Honor Roll.

"[Tallahassee Community College](#) is proud to be the employer of choice for our outstanding faculty and staff," said [TCC](#) President Jim Murdaugh.

## TCC alum finds success in mobile technology

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. (August 1, 2012) - When James Parsons walked into his CGS1060 class as a first semester student at Tallahassee Community College in August 2006, the farthest thing from his mind was becoming a technology "rock star."

"I couldn't even type all that well," recalls Parsons. "But I was very intrigued and realized there were so many opportunities in the technology field that I could go into. It turned into a quest to develop a skill set that could lead to where I am now."

And where Parsons is today is serving as a partner and executive sales director for App Innovators, a Tallahassee-based firm that develops and markets smart phone applications.

Parsons, a business major, and Dustin Rivest, a graduate of Florida International University, talked casually about developing and marketing apps to local churches. As time passed, the project grew and, through connections Parsons had made in the past, has expanded the company's reach exponentially.

Today, App Innovators is quietly assembling a who's who of clients, both locally and nationally. According to Parsons, the company recently launched an app for Tallahassee's popular Hotel Duval, as well as a spring break app for Mike's Hard Lemonade.

The growth of App Innovators has resulted in a career change for both Parsons and Rivest.

"I definitely thought it would be something on the side, not a job that would require me to reserve it as a full-time position," said Parsons. "The same goes for Dustin – he wears so many different hats, but this now takes up most of his time."

And even bigger goals are on the horizon.

"Our goal is to reach into the Leon County School system and provide apps for all public schools – we want to give back to the community," added Parsons.

That also includes giving back to TCC, where Parsons and Rivest have had preliminary discussions with college officials about how the two entities can form partnerships that provide a service to students.

"We'd love to find a way for TCC students to seek us out for internship opportunities and even some that could lead to paid positions," said Parsons.

And as Parsons looks for ways to engage a new generation of TCC students, he's reminded of former instructors such as Matthew Robinson, who he calls a "life coach," and Jarrett Phipps, whom he credits for the success he enjoys today.

"They helped inspire me to continually focus on people and that's what I bring (to App Innovators) – the ability to sit down with people and find out how I can help them," said Parsons.

Parsons also singled out Judy Barnes, who influenced him through her role as an academic adviser in the College's Disability Support Services office. With Barnes' guidance, Parsons successfully exited numerous courses in math, a subject that, as he put it, "didn't come naturally."



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**Monday, August 27**

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9 a.m. - noon or 6 - 9 p.m.

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