

TALLAHASSEE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

In the News



October 21 - November 15

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TCC to add first four-year degree Baccalaureate of science in nursing to be offered

By Doug Blackburn
TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT

A new era is under way at Tallahassee Community College.

With a 5-1 vote, TCC's trustees on Monday authorized the administration to start the process to add a baccalaureate of science in nursing (BSN) degree, the first four-year degree to be offered in the school's history.

Provided TCC gets approval from the Florida College System and its accrediting agency, Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, it will become the 25th of the 28 schools in the state system to add a bachelor's degree.

Most of the community colleges have changed their names in the past six years to reflect their status as four-year degree-granting institutions, though it's not required. Changing TCC's name did not come up during Monday's board meeting.

TCC Provost Barbara Sloan said that because of the multistep process for gaining approval, TCC won't be able to offer its BSN until at least 2015.

It can't happen soon enough as far as Mark O'Bryant, president and CEO of Tallahassee Memorial HealthCare, is concerned. O'Bryant, representatives from Thomas University in Thomasville, Ga., and administrators at the five four-year schools that offer a limited number of degrees on TCC's campus, all addressed the trustees during a workshop prior to their vote.

"Yes, there's a huge shortage of nursing-degreed individuals in our region. That's not anything new," O'Bryant said. "The good news is there's not a shortage of qualified applicants."

Barbara Alford, a vice president at TMH and the hospital's chief nursing officer, told TCC's trustees that the graduates from Florida State and Florida A&M are less likely to remain in Tallahassee compared to TCC students. TMH, she said, hires about 250 nurses every year and it is eager to increase the percentage with BSN degrees.

"The research is very clear," Alford said. "You get better patient outcomes with BSNs. It makes for a better health-care system."

TCC President Jim Murdaugh said he was approached more than a year ago by O'Bryant and leaders at Capital Regional Medical Center, urging him to add the BSN degree to TCC's curriculum. Murdaugh said he wanted to make sure it satisfied three criteria: it is good for TCC's students, it is good for the community and it is good for the college. He is convinced it is a home run on all fronts.

"This is a real opportunity for us to meet the real workforce needs that we have," Murdaugh said. "Our sincerest hope is that every one of our public and private partners grow. I think we have plenty of opportunity for all of us to grow."

Frank Messersmith, a Wakulla County resident and longtime member of TCC's board, was the lone trustee to cast a dissenting vote.

"It it were just about nursing, it would be one thing. This is not just about nursing," Messersmith said.

"This is a major change in the structure of this college. Once you create one (four-year degree), you're opening the door. I worry that it takes us away from our wonderful community spirit."

Trustee Donna Callaway was a member of the state Board of Education when it began approving four-year degrees at community colleges six years ago.

The degrees that were approved, she said, were ones that originated in the community — such as the BSN at TCC — and not in the administrative offices of a particular college.

"Do I believe this will be the last one?" she said. "No. This will open the door. It always has. But I can't do anything but put some of my reservations to rest and support the whole concept."

Teachers learn ways to teach Holocaust

Workshop tackles tough subject

By Jorda Culver

TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT

Jeannine Meis will go back to her classroom at Cobb Middle School equipped with tools to help her teach one of the heaviest subjects students broach in schools.

Meis spent a full work day with her fellow history teachers hearing stories from Holocaust survivors and learning how to relate those stories to their students. The day was intense, she said, but teachers need to be able to teach Holocaust education to their students.

"It's incredibly important," she said. "Especially now because there's such a big push about anti-bullying. I wouldn't say the Holocaust is comparable to bullying, but it's the same concept gone way too far. Some of these kids can relate to it and understand."

Dozens of teachers and administrators from Leon County Schools traveled to Tallahassee Community College for a workshop on how to integrate Holocaust education into their classrooms. The workshop, sponsored by the Holocaust Education Resource Council, is an annual event to ensure teachers are up-to-date on the latest information regarding Holocaust education.

A 1994 mandate requires all kindergarten through 12th-grade history teachers to spend time teaching about the atrocity that murdered 6 million Jews. Canopy Oaks Elementary School teacher Merry Berry said teaching the subject should be a foregone conclusion. Berry said even the fourth and fifth graders she teachers ask for more information about the Holocaust after she finishes a lesson.

"They always want to go much deeper," she said. "Sometimes that continues on to middle and high school."

Dr. Miriam Klein Kassenoff, who as a child fled Nazi-occupied Czechoslovakia and eventually made her way to the U.S in 1941, served as the keynote speaker for the workshop. Kassenoff is the Education Specialist for Holocaust Studies for the Miami-Dade County public school system and the director of University of Miami's Holocaust Teacher Institute.

"By the time the teachers have left today they'll be able to go into the classroom and actually prepare a unit on the study of the Holocaust and all of the lessons that are to be derived from it," she said.

Donna Callaway, a member of TCC's Board of Trustees and the former principal at Raa Middle School, said students naturally make connections to what teachers show them about the Holocaust and problems facing the world today.

"Teachers don't even have to ask students why they're studying (the Holocaust)," she said. "Students realize it for themselves because it's part of their lives. We hope to just grow them and change the world by changing children."

She added, "It's the one curriculum I believe in completely."

Last year teachers were introduced to "Echoes and Reflections: A Multimedia Curriculum on the Holocaust," which was a new curriculum for studying the Holocaust. The program focused on more interactive learning opportunities like videos on anti-Semitism, propaganda and World War II.

This year teachers watched "Refuge: Stories of the SelfHelp Home." The movie is a documentary featuring Holocaust survivors living in Chicago. After watching the hour-long film teachers got to question the director, Ethan Bensinger.

HERC also sponsors a local essay and art competition to raise awareness about Holocaust education. The last competition, which was judged in May, had more than 260 entries from students across Leon County. Entries for the next competition are due in April.

Proposed Nursing Program At TCC Could Address Quality, But Not Quantity Of Local Nurses

By Lynn Hatter
WFSU

Tallahassee Memorial Hospital has a problem:

“Our BSN nurses that come to us from FAMU and FSU typically don’t stay more than two years. They’re not local people,” says TMH’s head of nursing, Barbara Alford.

The hospital faces a shortage of undergraduate degree holding nurses, because the ones it does receive from the universities tend to move on quickly.

The National Institute of Medicine has set a goal of having 80 percent of registered nurses also having a bachelor’s degree by 2020. TMH has set the same goal for its nurses as well. Increasing pressure on hospital finances and a greater desire to boost health outcomes have hospitals across the country working on ways to save money—and a big way to do that is keeping patients healthy. Nurses contribute greatly to that area—and the better trained and educated a nurse is, the better they are at doing their jobs:

“Evidence has shown and research has shown that nurses who are bachelor’s prepared, their patients have better health outcomes, so why wouldn’t you hire a BSN nurse? My problem is, for this particular hospital, there aren’t enough out there to hire,” Alford said.

Right now only about four percent of TMH nurses have advanced degrees. Another 54 percent have bachelor’s degrees. That still leaves more than a third of the hospital’s nurses without an undergraduate degree. For many of them, that means going back to school, as Tallahassee Community College’s Lei Wang, Associate VP of Institutional Effectiveness, explains:

“Our program will be more affordable, more efficient, and shorter, because, we already have two years general education here.”

The proposed program at TCC is called an RN-to-BSN program. That’s where people already registered as nurses can earn their bachelor’s degree.

Both Florida State and Florida A&M University have nursing programs. And yet, neither school is opposed to TCC setting up a third one. That’s because FAMU and FSU get their students nationally and internationally, while those who attend TCC are more local.

But while TCC’s proposed nursing program is aimed at boosting the quality and consistency of nurses, it may not be able to address the shortage issues facing the region. FSU’s interim nursing program chief Dianne Speake says, in the short term, she doesn’t see a way to increase the nursing workforce.

“We only have two hospitals here, and half a dozen nursing program all competing to put students in the hospitals. We’re pretty well locked in in Tallahassee in terms of the numbers of student nurses that can be accommodated at one time. So none of the programs are able to grow their programs to grow new nurses given the constraints we have.”

TCC officials will host a 3rd public meeting in Havana on October 30th to discuss the school’s future goals.

Cyber Security Awareness Month

By Lanetra Bennett
WCTV.TV

Tallahassee, FL - October is National Cyber Security Awareness Month. Thursday, an FSU researcher encouraged everyone to create a safe and secure cyber environment.

TCC student Josiah Saly says from online gaming to socializing. You've got Facebook, Twitter, there's videos that people put up online. There's micro transactions. you've got all sorts of thing that go on."

With so many things going on online, experts say be careful.

FSU professor Dr. Shuyuan Ho visited Tallahassee Community College Thursday for National Cyber Security Awareness Month. She says every moment there are cyber threats.

Shuyuan Ho says, "People like to take pictures and share informations, and once and a while turn on their GPS to find their directions. But, with this technology available to them, at the same time, all their personal informations are incorporated into the pictures they take."

Statistics show globally, there are more than 1.5 million cyber crime victims a day.

Dr. Ho says check your bank and credit card statements; never send passwords or credentials by email; and always access banking info directly from the browser, and not by clicking on hyperlinks in emails.

Dr. Ho says, "Those hyperlinks sometimes are embeded with some rogue links that many users they are not aware of they're redirected into somewhere else."

Dr. Ho also encouraged students to think about a career in cyber security, stating that it's among the top ten fastest growing careers in America.

Tallahassee ranked in top 50 most livable cities in U.S.

Locals sound off on capital city's latest ranking

By Helen Lopes
FSUNews.COM

There are about 20,000 cities in the United States, and Tallahassee, home to Florida State University, has been ranked as one of the nation's top 50 livable cities.

Livability, a website consistently investigating and cataloging cities' pros and cons, has released their annual "Top 100 Best Places to Live" list, crowning Tallahassee a reputable No. 42 on the list.

St. Louis, Mo. and Fargo, N.D. were two of the cities lowest billed on the list, with cities like Palo Alto, Calif. at No. 1 and Boulder, Colo. at No. 2, respectively.

Based on a wide range of criteria from economics to infrastructure, Tallahassee scored best in healthcare, amenities, social and civil capital and education.

"The ranking and related scoring system reflect the many quality attributes available here that appeal to both residents and vacationers," said Gary Stogner, senior marketing director for Visit Tallahassee. "It speaks well about our community, the quality of life and services available."

Notably, Tallahassee excelled in the education category boasting three major colleges: FSU, Florida A&M University and **Tallahassee Community College**. The presence of three large higher education institutions in Tallahassee contributes city's economic and social success.

"Tallahassee is very progressive, which is great for a lot of young professionals in the area," said Jason Wright, Seminole Flatts Apartments leasing manager and Atlanta native. "It has a lot to do with the college life here. With that, it drives a lot of people to the city and creates a lot of jobs."

Although definitely in the forefront, the college atmosphere does not entirely overtake the city. Tallahassee also claims a good balance between the fast-paced college life and the relaxed, small town vibe, according to Florida State sophomore Tessa Mears.

"It's small town but big town at the same time," Mears said. "You can go anywhere and see someone you know, but there's still so much to do."

Justin Charette, a recent FSU graduate student echoed Mears' sentiments.

"I feel it's a great city for students and non-students," Charette said. "If you want to enjoy nature, you can do that. If you want to go to a nice dinner with your family you can do that too. Besides 5 o'clock traffic on Tennessee, what's not to love— we've got the Maclay Gardens, all of Midtown, Railroad Square, all the shopping areas— I think it should be ranked closer to number one."

Jennifer Cooke, service manager at Wells Fargo, also reaps the benefits of the college community.

"[Cooke's family] love[s] going to the football games," Cooke said. "And after classes end, the city feels like a small town for a few months, which is something we enjoy as much as all the collegiate chaos."

However, some do find that there are aspects of Tallahassee that should be improved.

"In comparison to busier metropolises, it's a horrible city," Wright said. "Nightlife in bigger cities is more diverse, and there's just way more to do. In Tallahassee, if you're not a college student or an older citizen, it's hard to find that middle ground for young professionals. It could definitely use more mellow nightlife options every night of the week— not just for the college crowd."

But for all of its faults, Tallahassee, a city of contradictions, has its positives according to Gabes.

"Tallahassee definitely has its good parts," Gabes said. "But I'm only here until I graduate — I can't imagine someone consciously choosing to live here for the rest of their lives."

TCC Crafting 5 Year Plan

By Matt Galka
WCTV.TV

Tallahassee, FL - Tallahassee Community College says it's got a five-year strategic plan and it wants you to weigh in.

The school hosted an open forum in Havana at the Florida Public Safety Institute. School leaders met with Gadsden County residents to get their feedback on what they think should be added in the plan. TCC says it's all about listening to the community.

Many residents said they wanted more technology in the classroom, along with more marketing about what TCC can offer.

Affordable Care Act forum set for Wednesday

By James Williams
EDC COMMUNICATIONS

The Tallahassee Democrat and WellU are hosting a public forum on Wednesday to help answer community questions about the Affordable Care Act.

The discussion, to be held at the Ghazvini Center for Healthcare Education and broadcast live online at Tallahassee.com, will feature a panel of experts to field questions about the nuts-and-bolts of the new law and its Health Insurance Marketplace.

- The event will be held from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Wednesday at Tallahassee Community College's Ghazvini Center for Health Education, 1528 Surgeon's Drive, Tallahassee. The discussion will begin at 6 p.m.
- Tallahassee Democrat Politics and Policy Editor Paul Flemming will moderate the panel discussion with Bart Gunter, executive vice president of Rogers, Gunter, Vaughn Insurance; Lindamarie Nwokeji, vice president & manager for benefits for Capital City Bank; and Ken Stevenson, employee benefits broker, with the Earl Bacon Agency.
- The event is free, but seating is limited. Reserve your spot by going to Tallahassee.com/ACAForum
- The forum also will be broadcast live on Tallahassee.com. Questions can be submitted through a live blog that evening or tweeted to #TDACA
- Questions can be emailed ahead of time to pflemming@tallahassee.com or lesliesmith@tallahassee.com

Training only a part of building better boards

By Kelly Otte and Alyce Lee Stansbury

TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT

Everywhere I go people mention the need for increased board training opportunities as well as access to quality candidates interested in board service.

This comes from people who work in nonprofits, from funders and from board members themselves. This begs the question of whether training is really what they are asking for. Or do they just want help? You can't change the culture of a board just by bringing on new people or by adding opportunities for training.

My experience tells me board members who need the training won't reach for it, and the ones who don't need it will attend every single session. And you can't change them by being a funder and mandating the 20 things you think every board must do for an organization.

If you bring quality people onto a poorly managed board, they either have to step up the second they get there and take leadership, or they drop off rapidly. I think you can ruin quality board members faster with a poorly managed board than you will engage them in fixing it.

Everyone has to want things to be different, and that means the executive director has to buy into changing the culture or it will not be sustained. Or, they have no desire to sustain it when they realize a high-performing board expects the same from the executive. For that reason, offering training to EDs on what a high-performing board looks like, how to get one and how to keep one, may be even more important than training board members.

Of course, one dedicated board member can have an impact on a low-performing board. If the person is a strong leader and can focus on collaboration with the other members, there can be a total transformation. But having been there, I can tell you it is a lot of work and takes considerable commitment. Board training is always good, but it's only one piece of the puzzle.

Alyce Lee: A great deal of my time is spent working with boards. The ones I've had the pleasure of working with are genuinely committed to making the organization stronger but often don't recognize, know how or accept their role in making this happen.

As an outside expert, I can provide information and training which serves as a catalyst for improving the board, but it's up to the members to understand and accept their role in strengthening the nonprofit.

In my experience, a board becomes high-performing only when the majority of board members and the ED are committed to changing the culture of the board. As Kelly says, this requires a significant investment of time and a long-term commitment by board and staff.

Unfortunately, some board members are content to maintain the status quo until their term ends. I call this the "kick the can" mentality where board members serve for several years, do little or nothing to solve existing problems and kick the problem down the road to the next rotation of board members.

Over time, boards inherit increasingly complex problems that require complicated solutions. Without recognition of the problems plus the willingness and skills to address them, the board slowly declines in the quality of its governance and management to the point it loses donor confidence, funding sources wither away, services are reduced and the nonprofit is forced to close.

The need for high quality, year-round board training and support came up this week at a second meeting hosted by Tallahassee Community College to help establish a local nonprofit resource center. Ideas being discussed include a board bank that will match prospective board members with local agencies in need of board leaders.

Happily, Leadership Tallahassee and Volunteer Leon are already working on this idea. Another idea is to host routine gatherings of board presidents to informally discuss issues and challenges and identify solutions in a peer-to-peer setting.

A third is to educate board members about the responsibility they have accepted and give them the tools they need to be successful. I like all of these ideas and am working alongside Kelly and many others to bring them to fruition. We'd love to hear from you.

TCC hosts job fair

EDC COMMUNICATIONS

On Wednesday, November 6, the TCC Career Center is hosting its Fall Job Fair from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Student Union Ballroom. The event is an opportunity for job-seekers to stand out in a pool of applicants and will connect students with representatives from local businesses looking to fill part-time, full-time and seasonal positions, as well as internships.

Job-seekers are required to wear professional dress to enter—in order to make a good first-impression with potential employers—and should have copies of their current resume available.

“This is a win-win event for both students and employers,” said Catie Goodman, director of the Career Center.

“Students have the opportunity to learn about and apply for job opportunities while employers get a chance to meet our ambitious, hard-working students.”

Participating employers include:

- Ashley Furniture HomeStore
- Avon Products
- Brandt Information Services
- Capital City Pedicabs
- City Year Jacksonville
- Cumulus Radio
- Department of Highway Safety
- Fitness Pro
- Florida Department of Revenue
- Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission
- Florida State Hospital
- Goodwill Industries of the Big Bend
- Hillsborough County Sheriff’s Office
- Leon County Government
- Management & Training Corporation
- Mary Kay
- Massey Services, Inc.
- Mikey’s Grill
- New Hire Solutions
- North Florida Medical Centers
- Papa John’s Pizza
- PATLive
- Pilot Flying J
- Super-Lube
- Tallahassee Democrat
- Tallahassee Police Department

- Unique Concepts in Marketing, LLC
- VolunteerLEON
- Workforce Plus

The TCC Career Center, located on the second floor of the Student Union, offers a variety of services related to career planning, preparation and placement, including professional development workshops, internships and resume/cover letter assistance.

TCC hosts series of dual enrollment fairs

TCC COMMUNICATIONS

Dual enrollment programs in Florida have undergone changes over the last year, and Tallahassee Community College is hosting a series of dual enrollment fairs to help local families stay current with what they need to know for their kids to succeed. The events will be held across TCC's service district, with fairs in Leon, Gadsden and Wakulla counties. The dual enrollment fairs are a chance for high school students and their families to learn about dual enrollment opportunities at TCC and to receive advising on and register for dual enrollment classes for college credit.

The dual enrollment fairs will be held at each location from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. TCC will host four events:

November 12
TCC's Wakulla Center
2932 Crawfordville Highway
Crawfordville, FL 32327

November 13
TCC's Main Campus, FPAC 104
444 Appleyard Drive
Tallahassee, FL 32304

November 14
TCC's Florida Public Safety Institute, Conference Center
Academy Drive
Havana, FL 32333

December 9
TCC's Main Campus, Student Union
444 Appleyard Drive
Tallahassee, FL 32304

"Dual enrollment is a great opportunity for local high school students to take advantage of acceleration options and to graduate with college credit," said Dr. Calandra Stringer, TCC's dean for curriculum and instruction. "It's also a chance for families to save money on tuition and to start their student on the path to thinking about career options."

For more information on TCC's dual enrollment offerings for high school students, visit www.tcc.fl.edu/dual-enrollment.

More fishermen trying aquaculture oysters

Wild vs. farmed raises concerns along the Gulf Coast

TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT

Andrew Arnold made a foray into aquaculture about 12 years ago, when he started growing clams in Alligator Harbor.

He said he had grown up making a living on the water, and seen the success of the clam cultivators in Cedar Key.

But like many others in the seafood industry along Florida's Gulf Coast, he said his business has taken a hit in recent years.

The narrative is familiar: A dwindling supply of fresh water hurt the health of the bay. Arnold said he was losing more of his clams before they were fully grown. With fewer shellfish being pulled from the waters of Apalachicola Bay, it was harder to get his product to market.

So Arnold started looking for another way to grow his seafood business. He recently decided to take part in a new industry, now spawning for the first time off the coasts of Franklin and Wakulla Counties.

On July 5, he wrote a letter to the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, looking to modify the lease that has allowed him to harvest clams from the sea floor. He wanted to try his hand at growing oysters in the water column.

After Florida's Cabinet approved the first such plan this summer, he was among the first of 13 people who sent letters to the department, some of them hand-written, some emailed, looking to modify their existing shellfish leases and start similar ventures, growing oysters above the sea floor with the hopes of finding a new way to supplement to an embattled industry.

"Once we found out that we were going to be able to do that, we all jumped on board to be able to give it a shot," he said.

"Whatever caused the collapse of the oysters out there on the bay, it also hurt us in Alligator Harbor," he added. "We're all on the same water."

Last month, the Cabinet approved 24 modifications to existing leases, allowing clam farmers to raise oysters in cages suspended above the sea floor.

"Anything I can do to increase my business, and hire people, and work, and everybody prosper — that's the key thing in life," Arnold said.

Participants in the new industry, as well as state officials, say the prospects are still uncertain, and it could take about a year before they know for certain how the first wave of efforts in the area have fared.

But aquaculture has thrived in Europe, Canada, California and the Northeastern United States, and taken root in neighboring Alabama. Arnold said he sees a new cause for hope in an industry on a struggling coastline.

Trying to co-exist

The effort to jump-start aquaculture has not been without controversy.

Shannon Hartsfield of the Franklin County Seafood Workers Association said he's concerned about the impact floating cages could have on other users of the water, such as shrimpers and crabbers.

He also said he does not want the new aquaculture ventures to distract from efforts to revive the wild oyster industry. Aquaculture comes with start-up costs that could prove prohibitive for the oystermen who have borne the brunt of an ecological crisis on the bay.

"It's not feasible for us at all, because of how much it costs to get into it," he said.

In August, the Franklin County Commission wrote a letter to the Agriculture Department opposing new oyster leases on Apalachicola Bay. Alan Pierce, Franklin County's director of administrative services, said the department ultimately approved leases only in areas, like Alligator Harbor, that do not contain wild oyster bars.

Kal Knickerbocker, the department's director of aquaculture, said that when the state reviews aquaculture leases, "the first consideration is: Are there other harvesters already there?" He added: "We're trying to find areas that we're not going to displace somebody else."

More fishermen trying aquaculture oysters....

continued

What's more, he said the cultivated oysters are intended to fill a different market niche than the traditional wild harvest. The target customer base, he said, is "white-tablecloth" restaurants looking to charge top dollar for a consistent product — a market where demand appears to have outstripped the supply.

"I think you could say that tips the scale towards making a profitable venture," he said. "There are some pretty substantial start-up costs, but long-term, they're looking at getting a return on their investment that makes it worth their while."

In other words, if the bay's ecosystem recovers, there could still be pent-up demand for wild oysters sold by the bucket.

Still, Pierce said some concerns remain, and he hopes the state and local governments can meet with representatives to work out a plan for the future of the seafood industry. Above all, he said, "We feel like there needs to be more attention to maintaining the natural (oyster) bars."

Growing in Wakulla waters

The Cabinet last month also approved a new lease for the Lovel family to expand their budding aquaculture operation near the mouth of Spring Creek, which lends its name to their restaurant.

Leo Lovel said he and his sons, Clay and Ben, saw "phenomenal" results in its first experiments with oyster-growing in Alligator Harbor. In less than a year, the restaurant was able to serve up freshly grown oysters up to three inches long. In June, the family received approval for the lease that allowed the cultivation of oysters in the entire water column.

He said that over the past three decades in the Wakulla County seafood industry, he has seen oyster-shucking houses and crab-picking stations shuttered. He hopes that moving cultivation closer to home will help reverse that trend.

Alongside the Lovels' new lease, Tallahassee Community College's Wakulla Environmental Institute is starting its own experimental venture. Bob Ballard, the institute's executive director, said early next year a small group of students will try their hands at growing oysters with loaned equipment. For now, he cautions, "It's going to take some time, and there is risk."

Making it to tomorrow

Hartsfield, with the seafood workers association, said increased rainfall in the Apalachicola River basin, coupled with the shelling projects completed with the backing of the Agriculture Department, have given him cause to hope that there will be legal-size oysters to pull from the bay sometime next year.

"The problem is, we're running out of months, we're running out of time," he said. "We've got families starving right now in Franklin County."

A report released earlier this year by the University of Florida's Oyster Recovery Team said the oyster harvest could still take years to recover from its recent collapse. For the past week, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission launched a crackdown on people harvesting under-sized oysters.

Hartsfield said "desperation" is likely what's motivating people to pull up oysters that are less than three inches long.

"They're having to live for today and not think about tomorrow," he said.

Arnold, one of the longtime clam farmers who is preparing to harvest oysters, said that if trucks aren't moving oysters out of the region, it becomes harder to ship other seafood to market. If one branch of the industry struggles, it can hurt the others.

He said he does not expect the new aquaculture ventures to resolve all of the woes along the bay, but he hopes to see wild oysters recover. Until then, he said watermen and the agencies that regulate them need to use every method at their disposal.

"Everybody needs to look at every possible means to help the industry in general," he said. "Everybody needs to work together, and let these people make a living."

Tallahassee fundraisers recognize volunteer for National Philanthropy Day

TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT

Today is National Philanthropy Day and Tallahassee resident and volunteer Mary Pankowski will be honored at a luncheon hosted by the Big Bend Chapter of the Association of Fundraising Professionals.

Pankowski serves on several community boards, including the Tallahassee Community College Foundation and helps organizations like the United Way of the Big Bend, Habitat for Humanity and others. The luncheon takes place at the Capital City Country Club.

"The local AFP Chapter hosts National Philanthropy Day annually to recognize and pay tribute for the many contributions that philanthropy and those individuals active in the philanthropic community have made to our lives and our community," said Ranie Thompson, the chapter's president.

Local Bank President Shares Inspirational Testimony with Steele-Collins Students

By Linda T. Fortenberry

CAPITAL OUTLOOK

Matt Brown, market president at Tallahassee's Centennial Bank, was the featured presenter for the weekly Character Building Leadership Convocation at Steele-Collins All Male Charter Academy on Oct. 17. His dynamic presentation focused on the famous quote by Winston Churchill: "Never...Never...Never...Give Up!"

Brown was very transparent with the students of Steele-Collins by sharing events from his turbulent childhood. His dad's alcohol addiction and the tragic accident in which his favorite cousin and hero was killed by a train were clear illustrations that "life was not always pleasant."

To make matters worse, another of Brown's cousins committed suicide. He said it was very difficult for him to understand and cope with these tragedies. He further shared his personal challenges as a teenager. Brown realized that his faith would be essential for his recovery. Today, he is still "recovering", but is steadfast in his determination to "Never...Never...Never...Give Up!"

Brown gives back to the community in several ways. Most notably, he is one of the founders of Tallahassee's Celebrate Recovery Ministry where he has served as a lay minister in the prison for over twenty years. Brown recalled how some prisoners prayed for him in his time of need, and how he is blessed to be able to give back.

Never missing a day of work, Brown said that every one in 10 people would face similar challenges, but needed the resolve to press ahead. Through the grace of God, Brown noted that the same hospital where he was treated as a young man, years later, he served on its Board of Directors.

In tracking his career path and making the right decisions, Brown shared that he resigned from a very high paying job in another state when he realized some of the people lacked character. Later, he was the youngest of 100 applicants for another job in Florida where he was hired. He was convinced that his earlier decision to "do the right thing" contributed to him being named to the Florida job. As an illustration of letting go of the past, Brown let students hold two small ping pong balls. He held a large

basketball. In order to catch the basketball, the students had to release the ping pong balls. The smaller balls represented the "little" things that impede progress and success and need to be released.

Brown's job as president of Centennial Bank's Northeast Florida Market includes Leon and Gadsden counties. Over his career, Brown has served as CEO of four Florida banks with markets in North Florida and Southwest Florida. He grew up in Monticello and graduated from Jefferson County High School. He received his AA degree from North Florida Community College and earned a B.S. degree in Criminology and a Masters in Public Administration from Florida State University.

He graduated from the Graduate School of Community Bank Management at the University of Texas at Austin. He has served as chairman of the Florida School of Banking where he mentored bankers and taught classes in leadership, ethics and the Golden Rule. He is a graduate of Leadership Tallahassee, Leadership Lee County and Leadership Cape Coral.

Brown has also been involved in many areas of our community. He served as chairman of the Greater Tallahassee Chamber of Commerce, Chairman of the Big Bend Heart Walk and served on the Board of Directors of the Economic Development Council, Florida Bankers Association, Tallahassee Community College Foundation, Kairos Prison Ministry, John G. Riley House & Museum and Leadership Tallahassee.

He has organized the fundraising and construction of several homes for Habitat for Humanity, was one of the founders of Tallahassee's Celebrate Recovery Ministry and has been a lay minister in the prison system for 20 years. He is particularly excited to be a part of the lives of the students of Steele-Collins.

TCC offers two courses on manufacturing

TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT

Tallahassee Community College's Division of Workforce Development is offering two manufacturing courses starting this fall.

"Introduction to Computer Numerical Control Machining" will provide participants with classroom sessions and hands-on equipment training.

The class meets from 6 to 10 p.m. and will begin Nov. 14, continuing through Jan. 27. Tuition is \$379 and all classes are held at TCC's Advanced Manufacturing Training Center.

The "Production Technician" course teaches the basic knowledge and skills applicable to entry-level through supervisor manufacturing positions. This 80-hour program is an instructor-led, web-based course that starts Dec. 3 and continues through Feb. 20.

The course costs \$399, with classes held at the AMTC.

"Our emphasis is on preparing students for careers, and completing these courses gives potential employees a lot of credibility in the manufacturing industry," said Bruce Batton, program manager of the AMTC.

For details or to register, contact the AMTC at 201-9720 or amtcc@tcc.fl.edu, or visit www.tcc.fl.edu/AMTC.

National program serving older workers grows to 100 colleges

By Times Staff
PUBLICATION

A national workforce training program to prepare older adults for new careers continues to grow with another 38 community colleges joining the ranks of the 50 Encore Completion program, which is managed by the American Association of Community Colleges (AACC).

The new member colleges bring the total to 100 two-year colleges participating in the initiative, which is working to train 10,000 baby boomers over the next two years for new jobs in health care, education and social services, while helping them complete certificates or degrees. Plus 50 adults will be able to train for careers as medical transcriptionists, pharmacy technicians, respiratory therapists, certified nursing assistants, medical assistants, daycare workers, child development associates, substitute teachers, clinical laboratory assistants and other jobs.

The 38 new colleges are:

Albany Technical College (Georgia)
 Brookdale Community College (New Jersey)
 Brunswick Community College (North Carolina)
 Cape Fear Community College (North Carolina)
 Capital Community College (Connecticut)
 Central Arizona College
 Clark State Community College (Ohio)
 Community College of DuPage (Illinois)
 Davidson County Community College (North Carolina)
 Delaware Technical Community College
 Delta College (Michigan)
 Eastern Iowa Community College District
 Edgecombe Community College (North Carolina)
 El Camino Community College District (California)
 Gateway Community and Technical College (Kentucky)
 Grays Harbor College (Washington)
 Greenfield Community College (Massachusetts)
 Green River Community College (Washington)
 Henderson Community College (Kentucky)
 Highland Community College (Kansas)
 J.F. Drake State Community and Technical College (Alabama)
 Jackson State Community College (Tennessee)
 Jefferson Community and Technical College (Kentucky)
 Kingsborough Community College (New York)
 Madisonville Community College (Kentucky)
 Milwaukee Area Technical College (Wisconsin)

Montcalm Community College (Michigan)
 North Central Michigan College
 Oakton Community College (Illinois)
 Panola College (Texas)
 Piedmont Community College (North Carolina)
 Piedmont Technical College (South Carolina)
 Phoenix College (Arizona)
 Roanoke-Chowan Community College (North Carolina)
 South Arkansas Community College
 South Texas College
Tallahassee Community College (Florida)
 Tulsa Community College (Oklahoma)

Turnout is low for StarMetro meeting on future of downtown transit service

By TaMaryn Waters

TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT

Wednesday's kickoff meeting to gather public input for a \$500,000 StarMetro study attracted only one resident at the Frenchtown Renaissance Center, with the exception of staffers and a dozen Florida State transportation majors encouraged to attend.

That outcome will need to change for the next series of meetings planned for March and August. One main goal of the study is to gauge community support for short-term and long-term transit options — a streetcar, light rail or bus rapid transit — in the targeted 18-square-mile transportation district home to 70,000 people, downtown, FSU and Florida A&M University and [Tallahassee Community College](#).

The federally required "Alternatives Analysis" study, paid for through a \$400,000 federal grant and a \$100,000 local match, will take the next 18 months to determine which public transit is best suited in the multi-modal transportation district. Once the study is complete, the Tallahassee City Commission will select a "locally preferred alternative" for the district.

The study, led by Omaha, Neb., based global firm HDR Inc. and Tallahassee consultant RS&H, and the commission's decision may put Tallahassee in position for future federal funding.

"We are at the very beginning of a study right now," said John Mason, HDR project manager. "We don't know what we are going to build yet or whether anything will be built ... If the community doesn't support it, it's simple — it doesn't happen."

The study will also draw from plans already completed or in the works, such as the Regional Mobility Plan. He said part of the study's challenge will be determining what the special district needs in the next three to five years and 10 to 20 years.

Cheaper options include bus rapid transit, which acts much like light rail services but with buses. It's being used in cities like Cleveland, Orlando and Los Angeles. If implemented here, the cost could range from \$3 million

to \$30 million, depending on its design and whether it would operate in the same lane as cars.

For cities wanting to revitalize their downtowns, the modern street car approach has worked well, Mason said. It's a trend catching fire for the last decade, and it would cost between \$15 to \$30 million and seat 50 passengers for short 2- to 10-mile areas.

Light rail transit would act like a street car, just faster and big enough to commute 225 passengers for the hefty \$50- to \$100-million price tag to build.

"It's a very efficient way of moving a lot of people," Mason said. But added the study will answer whether it's right for Tallahassee. "Maybe yes, maybe no. That's what we are here to find out."

The study will also examine bus service improvements and traffic congestion clogging major streets like West Tennessee Street, which is bound to get worse, planners say. Consultants will be looking for ways to improve the east-west movement of people in order to increase public transit ridership, connectivity and accessibility to desired shops, restaurants and hot spots.

Kevin Hattaway, a Tallahassee Realtor and resident of Myers Park, said a study of this kind is necessary to plan the city's public transit future. New residents coming in from larger cities are used to more elaborate modes of public transit, he said. But Tallahassee needs to know what's right for its residents.

He moved to the city in 1979 when scores of residents were moving from downtown areas to the suburbs. Now he's seeing the reverse occur, especially with the development boom on Gaines Street.

"You have to have those densities to make it work," said Hattaway, adding light rail may be appropriate for residents commuting from Wakulla, Jefferson and Gadsden counties. "I think looking at all of the alternatives is smart."

'An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure'

By Angel Trejo
CHRONICLE

"An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure". "It is easier to build strong children than to repair broken men." "If you want to know the end, look at the beginning."

These famous sayings exemplify that prevention and early intervention are one of the most powerful weapons we have to assure a child's successful start in life. In the long run, it is cost-effective to provide early detection and early intervention services than treatment down the road. Children's Medical Services Director, Doctor Susan Cross, states that "early evaluation, diagnosis and treatment are proven to improve outcomes, intellectually and behaviorally."

These basic principles are what brought Whole Child Leon and Capital Area Infant Mental Health Association together in 2009 to provide free developmental screenings for children in Leon and surrounding counties. Since then, over 400 children have been screened and those with concerns have been connected to the appropriate service agencies.

On Nov. 8, at Children's Medical Services, 2390 Phillips Road Tallahassee, a free community-wide developmental screening will be held for children 6 months to 5 years old. Screening will include the areas of behavioral, cognitive, hearing, motor skills, physical, speech, language, and dental.

Research shows that early detection and early intervention treatment can greatly improve a child's development. Early intervention services help children learn important skills for school and life. Early identification of developmental disorders is critical to the well being of children and families.

Courtney Atkins, Whole Child Leon Executive Director comments that "These screenings are so vital because they help us identify children who may have possible health and developmental problems and may require some extra support before they start school. If potential problems are detected in any of the screened-for areas, the child then has the opportunity to receive specialized help before entering kindergarten."

The screenings are done through a collaborative effort from a number of agencies that provide child services.

Catie McRae, Director of Florida Diagnostic and Learning Resources System Miccosukee Center, states "Every agency and individual that volunteers for this event brings their own expertise to the table to help maximize the potential of every child that comes to be screened. We do that through early identification and through assisting families to access resources unique to their needs. In the end we all benefit."

Over the years parents have reported that these screenings have helped them understand their child's development.

If you are interested in having your child provided with a screening on Nov. 8, please call 487-2630 extension 0 to make a reservation.

Community partners include:

Children's Medical Services, Whole Child Leon, Florida Diagnostic and Learning Resources System, Capital Area Chapter of the Florida Association for Infant Mental Health, Leon County Schools, Children's Home Society Early Steps and Family Connections Programs, Early Learning Coalition, Brehon Institute for Family Services, Leon County Health Department, Dr. Edward Zapert and Dr. Jean Pierre Bastien of the local Dental Association, Florida State University College of Communication Disorders, Florida State University Autism Institute, First Words/CARD-Florida State University, Center for Prevention and Early Intervention Policy, Apalachee Mental Health Center, Department of Children and Families, Capital Area Community Action Agency (Head Start), Capital Area Healthy Start Coalition, Kids Inc., Technical Assistance and Training System Project, **Tallahassee Community College**, Early Head Start, Boys Town of North Florida, Tallahassee Democrat, WTXL-WCTV, Florida State University Public Radio and Metro Deli.

TCC unveils new strategic plan

CURT WILKERSON
Times Correspondent

Tallahassee Community College President Jim Murdaugh presented the college's new strategic plan to members of the Gadsden County community in an Oct. 30 event at the Florida Public Safety Institute Conference Center in Havana. The plan is the result of months of research and town hall meetings conducted in Gadsden, Leon and Wakulla counties.

Essentially, the plan is designed to serve three primary functions: It provides a map for steering the institution; it aligns the college's efforts with other universities and colleges and is used as a tool to help make decisions moving forward.

"This document will allow us to make decisions about how we allocate resources, what we place an emphasis on and help us measure how we are doing along the way," said Murdaugh. "At the end of the day, we are



Tallahassee Community College President Jim Murdaugh speaks at a strategic plan meeting. Photo by Curt Wilkerson

skating towards the dashboard for our website because we think it's critically important that the communities we serve see how we are doing on things that are important to you."

Murdaugh also explained how the plan affects Gadsden County residents, and also addressed concerns raised at Gadsden County town hall

meetings.

"We heard you say that in Gadsden County there is a need for professional development certificates of training for small businesses," said Murdaugh. "In our strategic plan there is a major section that refers to the work that we do in our academic and

See TCC/Page A2

Our Opinion: Future movement

Input is needed on transportation modes

Opinion

TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT

One has to wonder what message citizens sent by the lack of attendance at Thursday's open house about future transportation issues.

It either indicates that those interested in improving public transportation downtown are satisfied with the current direction of StarMetro and the city of Tallahassee, or they felt their voices would not be heard.

Give StarMetro planners credit. There always seems to be an interest in improving operations and public input. There have been many changes in public transportation, from improved amenities such as shelters, better accessibility for those with disabilities, specific operations for university students and more.

Yet, based on letters to the editor here and on social media outlets, there are plenty who are not pleased.

Thursday's meeting was the first to provide information and to seek input on improving transportation options for an 18-square-mile district that includes the Florida State and Florida A&M university campuses, Tallahassee Community College and downtown Tallahassee. It is part of the city's efforts to create a multi-modal transportation system that puts more emphasis on pedestrian traffic and public transportation and less on vehicle usage.

These informational meetings are critical if you want to be involved in on the front end, when concepts and designs are being discussed and crafted. There is still time, with more meetings scheduled for early next year, and citizen input still needs to be the driving factor in what the final plan includes.

"We don't know what we are going to build yet or whether anything will be built. If this community doesn't support it, it's simple — it doesn't happen," John Mason of the Omaha, Neb., firm HDR Inc. told the Democrat. HDR Inc. is teaming up with local consultant RS&H to conduct the study, which costs \$500,000, of which \$400,000 comes from a federal grant.

Short-term and long-term options could include streetcars, light rail or a bus rapid transit system. It must be done in connection with commercial growth plans for the targeted areas. It also will have to be considered in the context of the long-term public transportation options that will connect commuters traveling in from nearby Gadsden and Wakulla counties.

In a city where there is so much interest in getting from point A to point B in a timely manner while promoting cleaner energy sources, improving public transit should be of great interest.

The next meeting is in March. Plenty of time to get your suggestions in order.

Campus Notes

VA signs off on programs at TCC

International parade at TCC on Tuesday

TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT

VA signs off on programs at TCC

TCC's Division of Workforce Development recently earned approval from U.S. Veterans Affairs to include 11 training programs on a list of opportunities eligible for veterans' benefits. The college's accelerated, career-focused training programs offer an opportunity for veterans to learn new skills and transition into civilian careers. Programs now eligible for federal veterans' benefits include PSAV welding, ACA certification, ASP.Net computer programming, MOS certification, electronic systems associate, industrial hydraulics, pneumatics and sensors, industrial motor and controls, mechanical drivers, production technician, programmable logic controllers and CNC machining.

Workforce Development will be working closely with TCC's new Veterans Center. The center offers student veterans and dependents academic advising, assistance with VA benefits, financial management training, academic tutoring and networking opportunities for veterans. It's located in TCC's Computer Technology building, room 206. For more information on TCC Workforce Development's programs for veterans, visit www.tcc.fl.edu/WorkforcePaymentOptions.

International parade at TCC on Tuesday

TCC'S lineup of events for its ninth annual celebration of International Education Week, Nov. 12-15, includes the U.S. Department of State and the U.S. Department of Education. The week is designed to recognize and promote the benefits of international education and exchange. TCC kicks off the week with the International Parade of Nations at 12:30 p.m. Tuesday.

During the parade, students create a beautiful display around the campus flagpole, each marching in with his or her country's flag, followed by an introduction in the student's native language. The event will feature remarks from Marianne Kriel, a South African Olympic medalist who joined Nelson Mandela in several events during the Olympics. At 2:30 p.m. in the Student Union Ballroom, there will be a screening of "The Dialogue," a documentary which follows four U.S. college students and four Chinese college students as they explore Hong Kong and China together.

Veterans battle high tuition costs

By Howard Altma

TAMPA TRIBUNE

When Tyler Garner was in Afghanistan as a staff sergeant with the 1st Special Forces Group, he taught villagers how they could help set up stable, functioning governance, with one of the goals being eventually creating an accessible education system for all.

But when Garner, 29, left the service last year and came to St. Petersburg, he found impediments to education for himself and thousands of other veterans seeking an education back in the United States.

Like many service members who move frequently during their military career, Garner, who was born in Metropolis, Ill., had yet to establish the year-long residency required under the Post 9/11 G.I. Bill when he enrolled at St. Petersburg College in August 2012.

For Garner and thousands of others in Florida like him, that meant a big expense and lots of hassles, adding stress during an already difficult transition period from military to civilian life.

In a media blitz ahead of Veterans Day, today, the Department of Veterans Affairs Friday touted how an Army veteran attending college in New Jersey became the 1 millionth veteran to receive tuition benefits under the Post 9/11 G.I. Bill. More than \$30 billion has been spent on veterans' tuition and other education-related payments since the program's inception in 2009. For honorably discharged veterans who served at least 36 months, the Post 9/11 G.I. Bill picks up 100 percent of secondary education costs.

But it only pays in-state tuition rates. Out-of-state veterans seeking a secondary education in Florida and 42 other states have to pay the difference, which is considerable.

Having just arrived in Florida after more than eight years in the Army, Garner's bill for a semester at SPC was nearly double the in-state rate, leaving him scrambling to find a way to pay what the G.I. Bill didn't cover. And he isn't alone.

Last year, there were nearly 2,200 non-resident veteran students in state universities and colleges, according to the Florida Department of Veterans Affairs. Those students were forced to pay as much as three times what resident students pay, according to a state legislative analysis. The average two-semester cost for resident undergraduates last year was about \$6,000, compared to more than \$20,500 for non-residents. For graduate students, there was a 250 percent increase, from about \$10,000 for residents to nearly \$25,000 for non-residents. **The Florida College System** reported even greater differences, a little more than \$3,000 for non-baccalaureate programs for residents compared to more than \$11,000 for non-residents. Baccalaureate degree programs showed an increase of nearly 500 percent for non-residents, from \$3,541 to \$15,741.

Bridging those gaps is the "number one priority" for the Florida Department of Veterans Affairs, says spokesman Steve Murray.

"This year we are going to attack it and make it number one legislative initiative," said Murray, a retired Air Force lieutenant colonel. "The biggest thing we can do is to affect legislation, make it easier so veterans don't have to wait a year or never to get in-state tuition."

There may be some relief on the way. Two bills are working their way through the state legislature that would make Florida the eighth state to waive the residency requirement.

Similar legislation has been introduced for several years, but the measures never passed. Earlier this year, the legislation died in the House Education Committee after being attached to a bill offering tuition benefits to immigrants.

This year, proponents hope that it might be a different story. There are two bills circulating through the state house calling for the residency requirement to be waved. There is also federal legislation being considered that would force the state to give veterans in-state tuition by barring Florida institutions from receiving G.I. Bill funding unless veterans receive in-state tuition rates.

Veterans battle high tuition costs....

continued

State Rep. Kathleen Peters, who is sponsoring the lower chamber version of the bill, says she started working on the residency waiver issue even before she was elected last year.

Peters says she began pushing for the waiver when she was at the Clearwater Regional Chamber of Commerce.

"It was very clear throughout the years I worked with the chamber's military committee that veterans come back with incredible workforce skills," said Peters. "Military and veterans maybe didn't choose to make a career in the military, but for a period of time, they chose to put civilian careers on hold while they served the country. They put their lives on the line for strangers, were willing to give their life in a second's notice for strangers and our freedoms. When someone comes back from service for the citizens of this country, we should not make them wait to go to school and get on with their career."

When Peters took office last year, she says she was approached by St. Petersburg College to re-introduce the legislation.

SPC has plenty of company, according to Murray of the Florida Department of Veterans Affairs.

Even though legislative analysis on a bill introduced in the last session showed the state's colleges and universities stood to lose out on about a combined \$8 million by having the residency requirement waived for veterans, some of the state's largest public schools, including the University of South Florida, the University of Florida, Florida State University, and the University of Central Florida support legislation that would do away with the residency requirement, Murray said.

SPC and USF are among the schools that have publicly supported the residency waiver legislation.

"Many of the arguments against approving bills similar to the current (legislation) is that this change in residency for Veteran students would put an undue fiscal burden on an already strained education budget for the state," Jeff Cavanagh, SPC's director of veteran services, wrote in favor of residency waiver legislation.

"Opponents do not argue the merit in granting exceptions for Veterans, rather their concern over the fiscal impact. While the fiscal impact of this is an important factor, it is not the only one to consider," he said. "The responsibility of providing a budgetary solution for our state's education system should not fall on our nation's war Veterans. Our state schools offer tuition waivers to a number of students, from athletes to anyone who can contribute to the diversity of the institution; and the Veterans of the Armed Forces are certainly worthy of the same treatment."

USF President Judy Genshaft offered similar sentiments.

"For the 1,700 USF student veterans, the important next step in their journey is earning their degree," she wrote. "That's why USF strongly supports the proposed state legislation that grants every honorably discharged veteran the right to pay the Florida resident rate tuition at our public colleges and universities. "Our nation's veterans deserve our support in ensuring their success. Florida benefits from the leadership skills, maturity and perspective veterans bring to the classroom and to the workplace.

We thank all the members of the Florida Legislature who are advancing this important legislation and specifically two Tampa Bay area legislators, Sen. Jack Latvala and Rep. Kathleen Peters, who are the primary sponsors of this legislation."

Sen. Bill Nelson, (D-Fla.), co-sponsored the Senate version of legislation that would force states to waive residency requirements for veterans.

"Helping vets afford college is one of the best things we can do for them," said Nelson, whose bill, S257, was sent to the Veterans Affairs Committee in June, where it still is.

Rep. Kathy Castor (D-Tampa), supports the House version.

"I am a strong supporter of HR 357, the G.I. Bill Tuition Fairness Act, because our veterans deserve the top-notch educational opportunities that Florida colleges and universities provide," she wrote in an email to The Tribune. "In fact, USF is one of the top academic institutions in the country for veterans. USF student veteran Kiersten Downs is an outstanding example of the type talented veteran

Veterans battle high tuition costs....

continued

who we want to attract and keep in Florida. As a cosponsor of the impactful "G.I. Bill for the 20th Century" that provides scholarships for the veterans of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, the next important step is to ensure that their pathway to a college degree is affordable."

Proponents of the residency waiver say that the cost of allowing veterans to pay the in-state rate can be offset.

Murray says that not only is waiving the residency requirement for veterans the right thing to do for those who served, but it makes economic sense in the long run for colleges and universities.

"Many Florida universities and colleges make money off out-of-state students," he says. "It's a good source of income."

One reason, said SPC's Cavanagh, is that each veteran using the Post 9/11 G.I. Bill gets a \$1,600 monthly stipend. With about 1,170 of SPC's 1,800 veteran students receiving Post 9/11 G.I. Bill benefits, that means "nearly \$1.9 million funneled into the local economy, over and above tuition," said Cavanagh, who retired from the Navy in 1994 as a commander after 22 years.

To Garner, who said he wants to pursue a business degree, doing nothing has the opposite effect.

"This is how I look at it," he said. "Florida is pushing people away. We need that incentive. Not having it is really a turn-off. If more veterans come here, it will be more revenue for colleges."

Our Opinion: Entrepreneurship

Urban incubator has big potential

Opinion

TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT

Whenever there is discussion about economic development in Tallahassee, common themes crop up: We must bring our universities into the fold, we must provide for entrepreneurial start-ups, and we must retain our most talented college graduates.

Leon County has entered into a partnership designed to address those three concerns and more. At 6 p.m. today, there will be an open house at the the Urban Incubator Building, 918 Railroad Ave. It is a project that deserves notice.

This represents a partnership between Leon County and Domi Education, represented by associates with experience in education and product development and the money to finance ideas ready to be tested on the market. The center should be open by the spring.

Under the plan, Leon County is leasing the the former elections warehouse in the Amtrak complex to Domi, which will operate and manage the facility. The location, between Florida State and Florida A&M universities, and near the bustling Gaines Street corridor, is perfect.

Ken Morris, Leon County's director of economic development and business partnerships, said Domi will provide budding entrepreneurs with educational and business training, work space for development and seed money for projects. FSU is already on board with a tentative investment, and similar arrangements are being discussed with FAMU and Tallahassee Community College.

"A centralized urban incubator that offers an array of business training services and opportunities for local start-up businesses without regard to institutional or organizational roots has long been a missing piece to the local start-up ecosystem," Mr. Morris said in explaining the concept.

The project can help:

- Build important new companies in Tallahassee.
- Diversify the local economy.
- Retain business-minded graduates and lure similar talent.
- Attracting additional investment money.

The partnership includes the strong backing of John Vecchio, a graduate of Florida State and a successful businessman in the software industry, who has raised over \$50 million in venture capital. He's also a partner in Mosley Ventures, an Atlanta-based investment fund focused on start-ups in mobile technology, Internet security and green tech ventures. Local partners include David Lawson, a software businessman, local attorney Jake Kiker and entrepreneur Micah Walden.

Leon County is leasing the vacant warehouse to Domi, which will cover all operating costs. The county will pay up to \$250,000 one time for building improvements.

By forging this arrangement, Leon County and Domi Education are moving beyond the talking stage with an idea that may reap benefits for this community.

TPD: Suspicious Death May Be Possible Overdose

By Julie Montanaro
WCTV.TV

Police say a Tallahassee Community College student found dead in an apartment hallway died of a drug overdose.

The findings of the autopsy were released today and police revealed they do have surveillance video of the scene.

19 year old Jesse Cummings was found dead in the hallway of the Grand Marc apartments on Sunday.

Tallahassee Police say based on witness interviews and an autopsy done yesterday, they are working this case as a drug overdose, not a crime.

"The initial autopsy report did not show any indication that there was any foul play or anything that would show a blunt trauma where they were struck or something to that measure," TPD Spokesman David Northway said. "We do believe that it is a drug overdose at this time."

Cummings's body was found near apartment 25. Tallahassee Police did arrest the man who lived there. Police say 19 year old Eric Looper is facing charges for possession of prescription drugs and marijuana.

We got a copy of a letter that Grand Marc apartments management sent to residents. It says the surveillance video shows a resident and another person moving Cummings' body from an apartment to the curb.

Tallahassee Police confirmed that - but would not release the video tape or identify the people in it.

Heading Filipinos in Big Bend respond

Typhoon wreaks havoc for families struggling a world away

By Karl Etters

TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT

Four days after landfall of Typhoon Haiyan in the Philippines, Sharon Solis finally made contact with her family in the Southeast Asian island country.

She has heard from her father Erlindo Segovia, her sister and brothers via social media and email. All are alive, but like much of the country, are struggling to find food, water and relief from emergency responders.

Solis, a nurse at Tallahassee Memorial HealthCare, said she'd spoken with her family as they prepared supplies in the days before the storm. The Philippines sees about 20 tropical storms a year, but "they didn't anticipate it was going to be this big," Solis said. "What they didn't expect was the 15-foot storm surge getting into the mainland."

Her hometown, Tacloban, in the Leyte Province on the eastern side of the country, bore the brunt of what weather officials are calling the most powerful tropical storm ever recorded. Watching it on television brought a bevy of emotions.

"It was like a shock to all of us," she said of seeing media reports of the destruction in the town where she grew up and went to college.

She said that while everyone is OK, her father's house, and the surrounding city, is severely damaged. "Nothing is recognizable," she said.

Clyde Diao, president of the Big Bend Filipino-American Association said that other members of the organization have been trying to make contact with family in the area. Some have been successful, others have not. Of the estimated 1,500 Filipino residents of Tallahassee, about 10 have families in the Leyte Province, Diao said.

The infrastructure of the east coast port city, along with most of the homes, has been decimated. Communication and transportation disruptions in the country have left it close to impossible for emergency officials to access certain parts of the island country or provide food and water. Authorities said at least 9.7 million people in 41 provinces were affected by the typhoon, known as Haiyan elsewhere in Asia but called Yolanda in the

Philippines. It was likely the deadliest natural disaster to beset this poor Southeast Asian nation.

Diao said, "We're so used to this (typhoons) because of the location of the islands, but this one is a little bit different. The devastation is so horrific."

Mary Monter, a Tallahassee Community College student, said most of her family lives in the Antique Province on the western side of the country. She said the damage her relatives reported is not as devastating as found in Tacloban, only minor road and building damage from rain and high winds.

While official death totals may not be available for several days, officials fear it may top 10,000. The current count is around 1,000, but crippled infrastructure and immediate focus on getting crucial supplies to the area and keeping order among citizens are taking precedence over counting bodies.

International aid groups and militaries are rushing assistance to the region, but little has arrived. Government officials and police and army officers have all been caught up in the disaster themselves, hampering coordination.

Diao and Solis said support among the Tallahassee Filipino community has provided solidarity among themselves and also with their loved ones across the globe.

That connection "puts you down on the ground," Solis said. "Just the support itself and thinking that you're not alone; you're not by yourself."

The Big Bend Filipino-American Association has established a relief effort, like they have for many other disasters worldwide, to send aid through the Philippine Red Cross and other organizations.

WIDE WORLD OF EDUCATION



Tallahassee Community College students display flags from their home countries to kick off the college's International Education Week, promoting the benefits of international education and exchange. Today at 1 p.m. in the University Ballroom guests can visit students representing countries from around the world. Thursday at 11:30 a.m., there will be a screening of the movie "The Dialogue." Thursday from 2:30 to 5 p.m., "An Afternoon in the Tropics" on the Campus Walkway offers a chance to "visit" some of the Caribbean countries represented on campus. Friday, booths in the student union will provide information about more than 80 countries. KARL ETTER/DENOCORAT

Community Briefs

The Family Tree LGBT Community Center will host a Transgender Day of Remembrance memorial on Nov. 20

TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT

Every year on Nov. 20 the Tallahassee transgender community, and those that believe in the humane treatment of all creatures gather together to remember those who have died for daring to be themselves, this year is no different as more than 200 cities and over 20 countries are expected to participate in Transgender Day of Remembrance (TDOR) memorials. This year our TDOR attempt to facilitate change will happen on Nov. 20 from 6-9 p.m. at The Family Tree LGBT Community Center located in the Tallahassee Mall, Suite 2064 above the AMC Theatre. It will be hosted by Transgender Tallahassee, The Family Tree, The FSU Pride Student Union, FAMU LGBT Student Pride Union and **TCC Pride**. Our program will consist of a documentary on Dr. Petra Doan to be followed by her thoughts and insights. At closing we will light individual candles and read the names of 44 people around the world whose lives have been taken in the last year through bullying exemplified to an extreme. Please join us and heed the words of the Beatles whose words "It's a fool who plays it cool while making the world a little colder" resonate in our gathering! Contact Margeaux Mutz at margeaux.mutz@comcast.net for more info.

State audit recommends 11 changes at TCC

By Doug Blackburn

TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT

Administrators and trustees at **Tallahassee Community College** already have begun to add procedures to the written policies for the college's governing board, as a result of an operational audit released this week.

The audit, conducted by the state Auditor General's office, contained 11 findings primarily dealing with policies and procedures at TCC. A separate financial audit for the same time period, the fiscal year ending June 30, 2013, is expected to be released.

"You don't like to have any findings, but none of these are particularly troubling," TCC President Jim Murdaugh said. "The practice of the college has not been to put procedures in policy, but the auditor felt strongly they should be and we're complying."

The state auditors also determined that TCC needed to improve its reporting of student enrollment for state funding purposes, and that the college needed to improve its procedures for assessing and reporting distance learning course fees.

In its written response to the audit, TCC officials said they have made improvements to comply with the auditors' recommendations.

Two of the findings dealt directly with TCC's information technology practices. Access for some former employees was not deactivated as quickly as it should have been, the audit said, and security controls needed improvement.

TCC said in its response that "the college has completed changes to the security systems to correct for issues in the confidential findings that relate to user authentication."

Murdaugh said he welcomed external reviews of TCC's operations. Different departments at the college are reviewed regularly as part of their accreditation process, he added.

"I value outside looks like this. I look at all of these in a similar fashion: We need to welcome external reviews of our procedures," Murdaugh said. "All of this is intended to insure that we're doing business in the best way possible."

Dual Enrollment Advising & Registration Fairs

Parents and students will learn about dual enrollment options at TCC. Advisors will be available to register students.

Dual Enrollment Advising & Registration: November 4 through December 13

Current Students

Bring completed and signed permission to register form, along with a copy of latest report card.

New Students

Bring completed and signed permission to register form, copy of latest report card, and a copy of test scores.

Students will be registered based on the grades that appear on their latest report card. An updated high school transcript will be evaluated in January to determine if students remain eligible. If the overall unweighted high school GPA (including fall semester) is below the required 3.0, then the student will be dropped from classes.

Four fantastic fairs from 5:30 – 7:30 p.m.

Attend one of the following:

November 12
TCC's Wakulla Center

November 13
TCC's Main Campus
FPAC 104

November 14
TCC's FPSI Conference Center

December 9
TCC's Main Campus
Student Union



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