

TALLAHASSEE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

In the News



September 14, 2013 - October 21, 2013

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Heading Barron unveils plan to link majors, job options

Career readiness for students is one of goals

By Doug Blackburn

TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT

It's easy to imagine Florida Gov. Rick Scott waving pom-poms had he been on hand for Friday's Florida State University Board of Trustees meeting.

FSU President Eric Barron unveiled a 14-page, seven-point plan for job creation and student career success.

Barron will be presenting the plan to the Board of Governors and is scheduled to review it with the House Education Committee on Sept. 25. And yes, he will deliver a copy to Scott, the Republican governor who has made job creation the linchpin of his first term.

"I want to make sure (Scott) understands our commitment," Barron said.

Barron's plan includes some familiar material, such as the efforts being made to hire an entrepreneur-in-residence at 10 of FSU's colleges and to promote a minor in entrepreneurship for students who otherwise have no connection to the business school.

But there were new, previously unannounced elements unveiled on Friday. As soon as a freshman selects a major, he or she will be presented with information regarding possible jobs and average national salaries for those positions.

"We want all of our students to have their eyes open when they walk into a major," he said.

Barron also wants to increase the focus on competition among students who are vying for cash prizes for their inventions. One such competition already under way is for undergraduates to design mobile apps for smartphones.

Florida State faculty and students filed more than 100 patents during the past three years, and created four new start-up businesses, Barron said.

"The university engine to take things to the marketplace is growing," he said.

FSU's president also touted the university's role in regional economic development. He has become a member of the Economic Development Council for Tallahassee/Leon County.

John Dailey, chair of the Leon County Commission, was a guest speaker at the trustees' meeting. He applauded Barron's efforts to promote job creation throughout the region.

"I cannot remember a time when the relationship between the county and this university has been stronger," Dailey, a former student body president at FSU (1995-96), said.

The county would like to develop its own economic incubator, Dailey said, and he envisions working with FSU's College of Business to get it started.

Barron's long-term plan for a "Madison Mile" connecting the football stadium and the Civic Center also should be an opportunity for countless jobs, he said. There was a ribbon-cutting Friday evening for College Town, a key first step in the Madison mile concept.

Barron already has formed a partnership with Larry Robinson and Jim Murdaugh, the presidents of Florida A&M University and Tallahassee Community College, to promote job training for businesses that might be interested in relocating to Leon County.

The seventh point in his plan for student jobs is career readiness. He wants to better promote the university's career center so that students will have an easier time finding employment following graduation.

The preeminence bill passed earlier this year, providing FSU and University of Florida with \$75 million over the next five years, calls for both academic excellence and job creation, Barron reminded the trustees.

"We're trying to take a comprehensive approach," he said. "We want to make sure our students are more career ready."

CFO Atwater Offers 'Paying for College: Controlling Your Degree of Debt' To Guide College-Bound Students and Parents in Financial Decisions

MYFLORIDACFO.COM

TALLAHASSEE - In honor of College Savings Month in September, Florida Chief Financial Officer Jeff Atwater today announced that the Department of Financial Services is teaming up for a second year with the Florida Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators (FASFAA) to offer a free webinar entitled "Paying for College: Controlling Your Degree of Debt." As financial aid application deadlines are fast approaching, this webinar will provide valuable information on the variety of financial aid programs that can minimize college debt.

"It is very important to our students and the well-being of our economy that higher education becomes more affordable," said CFO Atwater. "As a society, it is our responsibility to provide these young adults with all of the resources available to ensure their success."

The webinar will be offered at 1 p.m. on Sept. 17th, 5:30 p.m. on Sept. 19th, 5:30 p.m. on Sept. 30th and 8:30 a.m. on October 2nd. The webinar will provide information about the variety of financial aid programs available, how financial need is determined, how to calculate the true cost of education and how to complete all the steps in the financial aid application process.

FASFAA is a statewide association that represents institutions of all sizes and types from proprietary schools to large universities.

"Core to FASFAA's mission is to promote an awareness of financial aid to students and parents," said FASFAA President Wayne Kruger. "Helping the citizens of Florida achieve the dream of higher education improves the strength of our state for all its citizens. FASFAA is proud to partner in this endeavor for a second year."

Bill Spiers, Director of Financial Aid at Tallahassee Community College and past president of FASFAA, who is presenting the seminar said, "The challenge of paying for a college education often creates a barrier for those who most need help to obtain a college or technical degree. Our goal is to ensure every student has the knowledge and skill necessary

to secure funding for college and understand the programs offered to assist families who need help meeting the cost of higher education."

For more information or to register for a "Paying for College: Controlling Your Degree of Debt" webinar, visit www.MyFloridaCFO.com/YMM or call the Division of Consumer Services helpline at 1-877-MY-FL-CFO (693-5236).

This webinar is offered as part of CFO Atwater's Your Money Matters initiative to help Floridians secure a firm financial foundation. This program provides important financial information and resources to inspire all Floridians to take charge of their financial future.

Workday to build industry's first student application developed in last 20 years

UNIVERSITY BUSINESS

Workday, Inc. (NYSE: WDAY), a leader in enterprise cloud applications for human resource and finance, today announced plans to build Workday Student, the only end-to-end student application built this century for the needs of modern-day higher education institutions. Working with forward-thinking colleges and universities to design the application, including Broward College, Yale University, Tallahassee Community College, and Southern New Hampshire University, Workday will take a new approach to the traditional student system, bringing together a system of record, a mobile-first system of engagement, and a big data analytic foundation, all unified with Workday's administrative solution and delivered in the cloud.

Today's higher education institutions face increasing pressures due to political and public dissatisfaction with rising tuition costs, increased student debt, and declining job-placement rates. Funding models for these institutions are shifting from enrollment-based to outcome-based, placing more emphasis on students getting the relevant job skills they need to compete in the global economy. Higher education institutions are tackling these problems with 20-year-old legacy student applications and bolt-on solutions, resulting in complex and disjointed systems that are extremely costly to maintain.

Starting with a clean sheet of paper, Workday plans to leverage modern technology, cloud delivery, in-memory technology, object modeling, and big data analytics, to create a natively built mobile student application that transforms the way colleges manage their students—from prospecting to graduation and beyond. In addition, the application will be designed to provide institutions with the data and insights they need to demonstrate accountability with the ability to scale and easily configure to changing needs.

At the heart of Workday Student will be a system of record that assists colleges in the recruiting, admitting, awarding, enrolling, advising, retaining, billing, and placement of students. Workday Student will address the complex and diverse requirements facing today's institutions by supporting each of the traditional, non-traditional, on-line, and competency-based education models.

With this offering, colleges and universities will be able to create individualized learning and success-guided pathways for students based on their unique education goals, and track progress from start to completion.

Embedded in Workday Student will be a mobile-first system of engagement designed to help students make informed decisions at each step on their educational paths and accelerate progress toward their desired outcomes.

Using Workday, students are expected to receive course recommendations based on personal preferences; optimal class schedule options based on their calendar availability; what-if models and virtual advising from faculty and staff; and enrollment updates on friends and cohort groups in the delivery methods they prefer, including mobile phone, tablet, social media, or email. Faculty and staff may create retention strategies and mobile alerts to enable them to directly connect with at-risk students. Applicants, students, faculty, and staff will each have individual portfolios that house their artifacts, including: academic and student life transcripts, certifications, course work, competencies, badges, job related experiences, and published research.

Supporting Workday Student will be a Big Data Analytic foundation that will empower institutions with instant access to real-time data and analysis, helping to guide decision-making and demonstrate accountability. Institution researchers, executives, front-line managers, and even trustees can receive operational analytics of real-time information presented in personalized dashboards in any browser or mobile device.

Workday to build industry's first student application developed in last 20 years.... *continued*

Workday Student is also expected to deliver predictive analytics on executive and trustee dashboards, illustrating future enrollment patterns, optimized schedules (for course enrollment and demand planning), peer institution comparisons, at-risk students, financial aid needs, and receivable models. The goal is to better support organizational modeling, resource planning, and recruitment and retention strategies.

Workday is scheduled to make initial components of Workday Student generally available to Workday customers in the second half of calendar year 2014, as an add-on application, sold separately. Release of the full product is expected to be completed by the end of calendar year 2016.

"Higher education is an important global industry that is facing some significant challenges right now. Workday has a passion for higher education, and we are continuing to build upon the success of our enterprise applications in this industry to help institutions tackle these issues," said Dave Duffield, co-founder and co-CEO, Workday. "Workday Student, unified with our entire administrative solution, will empower everyone on a college campus—from administrators to students to faculty to trustees—so all can achieve greater success."

"We are partnering with Workday on this project because our current system does not come close to helping us serve our students. Many other higher education institutions face similar challenges, and we believe Workday's vision is going to help solve some big problems in higher education," said J. David Armstrong, Jr., president, Broward College. "This new application is focused on student success and will be built not only for today's needs, but also for our constantly changing environments. With Workday Student, we are going to be able to serve students in ways we can only imagine today."

"We are focused on delivering a world-class education to our exceptional students and want to engage with our students in a modern, state-of-the-art way," said Ernst Huff, associate vice president for Student and Faculty Administrative Services, Yale University. "As part of the initial group of influencers, we are thrilled to help develop the next-generation student solution for higher education."

"Current systems are like a filing cabinet where you put data in but can't easily use it in meaningful ways," said Bret Ingerman, vice president for Information Technology, Tallahassee Community College. "Workday Student will be entirely different, combining in-memory technology, built-in analytics, a cloud delivery model, and a mobile-first design approach, to allow us to access, manage, and understand data in ways that weren't previously possible. As an early adopter, we have the unique opportunity to influence the technology that will impact our college directly and ultimately enable our entire organization to serve students, faculty, and staff in new and very powerful ways."

"Most student information systems were built for the higher education models of 30 years ago and then revised, bolted onto, and stitched together for the ways our industry has evolved," said Paul LeBlanc, president, Southern New Hampshire University. "We are thrilled to help shape Workday Student. A clean-slate, next-generation technology, and an embrace of the emerging models of delivery for teaching and learning—that's an innovator's dream."

About Workday

Workday is a leading provider of enterprise cloud applications for human resources and finance. Founded in 2005, Workday delivers human capital management, financial management, and analytics applications designed for the world's largest organizations. Hundreds of companies, ranging from medium-sized businesses to Fortune 50 enterprises, have selected Workday.

mtvU's RateMyProfessors Announces 2013 Top 25 Junior and Community Colleges

MTVNETWORKS

mtvU's RATEMYPROFESSORS.COM ANNOUNCES 2013 HIGHEST-RATED PROFESSORS AND COLLEGES

RateMyProfessors.com is built for college students, by college students. It is the highest-trafficked U.S. college professor rating site (Omniture), reaching its highest-trafficked month ever in August 2012 (7.7 million unique visitors). Owned and operated by MTV's college network, mtvU, the site consists entirely of student-generated ratings of current or former professors, featuring more than 8,000 schools, 1.8 million professors and 15 million ratings. RateMyProfessors.com reaches 6 million college students on average each month.

The 2013 RateMyProfessors.com Rankings Include:

Top 25 Junior and Community Colleges

1. Santa Barbara City College
2. Pulaski Technical College
3. MiraCosta College (all)
4. Johnson County Community College
5. Santa Rosa Junior College
6. Manchester Community College
7. Cypress College
8. Fullerton College
9. Anne Arundel Community College
10. Kirkwood Community College
11. Estrella Mountain Community College
12. Housatonic Community College
13. Harford Community College
14. Howard Community College
- 15. Tallahassee Community College**
16. Lone Star College(all)
17. Moraine Valley Community College
18. Chaffey College (all campuses)
19. Palo Alto College
20. Scottsdale Community College
21. McLennan Community College
22. Foothill College
23. Northhampton Community College
24. Richland College
25. Volunteer State Community College

Leaders honored for dedication to community

Al Lawson receives Lifetime Leadership Award at banquet

By Dave Hodges

TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT

Praised for his statesmanship, determination and devotion to his community, Al Lawson accepted the Lifetime Leadership Award at Leadership Tallahassee's annual banquet Thursday night.

A former state legislator and a business owner with 35 years in the insurance field, Lawson acknowledged all the guidance he'd received along the way from colleagues and fellow business leaders, as well as support from his family and employees.

"All my life, all I've ever wanted to do is to help others to be successful because it was many people that helped me along the way," Lawson told a record crowd at the sold-out Distinguished Leadership Awards at the University Center Club.

He was introduced by long-time friend Sen. Bill Montford, D-Tallahassee, who called Lawson "a true statesman and a true Floridian." In a video that included Lawson's high school basketball coach, Vernell Ross; teammate Eugene Lamb, Lawson's wife Delores and former House Speaker James Harold Thompson, Lawson was remembered for his engaging personality, concern for his neighbors and dedication to his state.

"Al is one of those people who we are fortunate to have in our society," Thompson said.

Other awards were also presented by Leadership Tallahassee, a division of the Greater Tallahassee Chamber of Commerce. The Leadership Pacesetter Award — given to an active community leader achieving tangible results as a newcomer, at a relatively young age or in a non-traditional field — was presented to Melanie Lee, vice president and general manager of Kia AutoSport.

Lee delivers Meals on Wheels for Elder Care Services, supports the Salvation Army and serves on its advisory board, and is a volunteer for the Junior League's Operation Prom Dress project, among her many activities. The Servant Leadership Award was presented to Lawton Langford, chairman and CEO of Municipal Code Corp. **The award recognizes a person who has**

demonstrated consistent community leadership and begun to achieve results beyond a single field of endeavor, combining efforts in business and nonprofit organizations. Langford is a past chairman of the Tallahassee Community College Board of Trustees, a past United Way chairman and supports a number of other local community groups.

Leader of the Year is awarded to a person whose ideas, vision and hard work have achieved significant benefits for the community in the past year. The winner was Vince Long, Leon County administrator. He is a member of Leadership Tallahassee Class 24, is a Leadership Florida graduate and has served as an adjunct faculty member at FSU, where he has taught graduate courses in local government for more than a decade.

The banquet and awards presentation, now in its 19th year, is a fundraiser for Youth Leadership Tallahassee, which offers leadership development programs and activities for teens. Lawson's award honors an individual who has made significant leadership contributions to the Tallahassee community for more than 25 years.

"I have had a love affair with this community, working downtown, getting involved in this community with the Urban League, other organizations," Lawson said, challenging the audience to consider the needs of all Tallahassee's residents.

"I learned as a business person that if you're a business leader in this community and you are not concerned about what happens on the south side of town, then your kids are going to eventually meet those kids. If they do not have the opportunity to be successful, it's not going to be a pleasant experience when they meet," Lawson said. "So as business leaders in this community, you need to be involved in all segments of the community."

He referred to himself as "just a spoke in the wheel" and a person who has hoped that on life's journey, he could have the chance to help someone else. "You make a living by what you get," he added, "but you make a life

TCC's EMT Program Receives National Recognition for Graduates' Return on Investment

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

Tallahassee Community College's Emergency Medical Technology program was recently ranked 32nd in the nation for the return on investment its graduates receive. The rankings were published by Fire Science Online, a not-for-profit organization that provides information about firefighting and other first responder careers.

More than 1,100 colleges in the U.S. offer EMT programs. Fire Science Online identified programs with the highest return on investment using national salary, tuition, enrollment and accreditation data. The list recognizes the institutions with significantly lower-than-average tuition rates in states where graduates are well paid.

"A ranking like this helps quantify the student successes we get to observe every day," said Dr. Alice Nied, dean of Healthcare Professions at TCC. "Our EMT students are graduating with the knowledge and skills they need for fulfilling careers. A TCC education is an investment in their future."

TCC healthcare graduates pass their professional exams at exceptionally high levels, consistently achieving pass rates above national averages.

To read Fire Science Online's complete program rankings, visit FireScience.org. For more information on TCC's EMT program, visit www.tcc.fl.edu/healthcare.

Schools From Across Country Attend Local College Fair

By Lanetra Bennett
WCTV.TV

Tallahassee, FL - Local high school students got to check out colleges from across the country.

The Student Union Ballroom at Tallahassee Community College was packed wall-to-wall Monday, as around 45 colleges and universities were represented at a college fair.

Hundreds of high school students and their parents were on hand to learn about their options when it comes to a higher education.

Aricka Tucker, a senior at Florida High, says, "I want to be successful in life and job opportunities are getting smaller and smaller. So, I just want to get a start."

Brian Lockwood attended with his 11th grade son. Lockwood says, "I'm trying to find what to do and when and see all the different schools. I don't know exactly the process, but, I know it's long and involved. I don't want to find out a year from now we should've been doing this instead of that. That's why we wanted to come here and take advantage of this great opportunity."

The college fair was from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.

Organizers say it was the first of its kind in five years.

Workshops highlight Minority Enterprise Development Week

By Dave Hodges

TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT

Minority Enterprise Development Week is under way in Tallahassee with this year's observance consisting of workshops to help business owners improve their companies' performance.

The theme for this year's event is "Where U.S. Businesses Meet Global Opportunities." The schedule Wednesday includes a series of workshops at Florida State University's Turnbull Conference Center, 555 W. Pensacola St.

At 9 a.m., Jennifer Collins, Ph.D., associate professor of management at Florida A&M University, will discuss "Social Media Solutions for Small Businesses". The session at 10 a.m. is "Growing Globally," presented by Christine Urban, business analyst at the FAMU Small Business Development Center.

Judy Micale will speak on "Improving Communications" at 11 a.m. She is an author and executive, life and wellness coach. At 1:30 p.m., consulting firm Blackmon Roberts Group Inc. will present a session entitled "Doing Business with FDOT."

Thursday's activities begin with a roundtable discussion on global marketing best practices from 9:30 to 11 a.m. One-on-one sessions for vendors will be held from 1:30 to 4 p.m.

Ken Lawson, secretary of the Department of Business and Professional Regulation Ken Lawson will present the "State of State" Thursday at the annual luncheon, which starts at 11:30 a.m. Also speaking is Cassius Butts, Region IV administrator of the U.S. Small Business Administration.

Karen Moore, founder and CEO of Moore Communications Group, will be honored as the Reginald L. Rolle Economic Development Champion of the Year.

Additional awards will be presented to Calvin J. Singleton of Concrete Services Unlimited Inc. as the Minority Business of the Year, and Christi Hale of Hale Contracting Inc. as the Woman-Owned Business of the Year.

Minority Enterprise Development Week was first designated by President Ronald Reagan in 1983. It recognizes the positive economic impact that small and minority-owned businesses have on their communities.

For more about the program or to RSVP for the luncheon, call the city of Tallahassee's Minority Business Enterprise Office, 891-6500.

EDC convenes annual meeting today

By Dave Hodges

TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT

The Economic Development Council of Tallahassee-Leon County Inc. will conduct its annual meeting today at the University Center Club, marking the end of its fiscal year and the start of new chair Jim Murdaugh's term.

The luncheon starts at 11:30 a.m. and includes a review of the year's accomplishments, along with a panel discussion in which two local company owners and a serial entrepreneur offer their perspectives on getting their ventures off the ground.

The panel consists of Gabe Grass, founder of Grasslands Brewery, Cotton Colors' Laura Johnson, and Michael Kramer, who has been involved in such businesses as SuperLube, Desloge Home Oxygen & Medical Equipment, and The Red Elephant Pizza & Grill restaurants.

Outgoing EDC chair Karen Moore, founder and owner of Moore Communications Group, will moderate the panel discussion, then welcome new chair Jim Murdaugh, president of Tallahassee Community College.

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

Leaders honored for dedication to community



Vince Long, right, receives the Leader of the Year Award on Thursday night from TCC President Jim Murdaugh and Martha Olive-Hall, chair of the Leadership Tallahassee Board of Governors. MIKE EWEND/DEMOCRAT

Al Lawson receives Lifetime Leadership Award at banquet

By Dave Hodges
Democrat Business Editor
@Tallybiz on Twitter

Praised for his statesmanship, determination and devotion to his community, Al Lawson accepted the Lifetime Leadership Award at Leadership Tallahassee's annual banquet Thursday night.

A former state legislator and a business owner with 35 years in the insurance field, Lawson acknowledged all the guidance he'd received along the way from colleagues and fellow business leaders, as well as support from his family and employees.

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ridian." In a video that included Lawson's high school basketball coach, Vernell Ross; teammate Eugene Lamb, Lawson's wife Delores and former House Speaker James Harold Thompson, Lawson was remembered for his engaging personality, concern for his neighbors and dedication to his state.

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Lee delivers Meals on Wheels for Elder Care Services, supports the Salvation Army and serves on its advisory board, and is a volunteer for the Junior



Al Lawson was presented with the Lifetime Leadership Award during the 19th annual Distinguished Leadership Awards dinner at the University Center Club. MIKE EWEND/DEMOCRAT

ONLINE
Visit Tallahassee.com/Leaders for a video on the 19th annual Distinguished Leadership Awards.

League's Operation Prom Dress project, among her many activities.

The Servant Leadership Award was presented to Lawton Langford, chairman and CEO of Municipal

Code Corp. The award recognizes a person who has demonstrated consistent community leadership and begun to achieve results

See AWARDS » 2A

Take the Wakulla Springs Overland Tour

By Doug Alderson

TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT

The fish in the Wakulla Springs “fish bowl” were legendary. For decades, African-American boat drivers would glide over the gin-clear water of the spring bowl and call up the bullhead catfish in a sing-song, gospel-like voice. Hundreds would begin following the boat as if marching to orders.

An old post card called it “the fish parade.” Of course, food the drivers dropped into the water was the main incentive for the fish, but it was easy to gaze down, especially as a child, and imagine that the guide had magical powers over the finned creatures, especially when he glided above an exposed log and began to call to a small bass named Henry.

Henry, “the pole-vaulting fish,” and the fish bowl were mainstays of the Wakulla Springs glass-bottom boat tours. But when nitrogen levels began skyrocketing in the mid-1990s and the spring became increasingly murky and algae-covered, the fish largely disappeared. And the glass bottom boat tours became rare occurrences due to dark water. That’s why I jumped at the chance in June when the spring suddenly cleared enough for the glass bottom boats to run again. Water clarity was at about 80 feet, not exactly gin-clear, but we were still able to gaze in awe into the 120-foot abyss like in days of yore. Mastodon bones, though algae-covered, still lay across the bottom in one spot, along with the hollow “Tarzan’s log” that Johnny Weismuller used to swim through during the filming of two Tarzan flicks in the 1930s. After the movies, hundreds of teenagers, including myself, used to swim through the log when it was closer to the swimming area, a rite of passage for generations of local boys.

The missing attraction on the contemporary glass-bottom boat tour was fish. No catfish. Not one. Only a few mullet and panfish. And neither was there “Henry the pole-vaulting fish.” Most of the eelgrass around the headsprings was missing, too, smothered by invasive hydrilla that first showed up in the late 1990s.

What happened to the fish? No one can say for sure. Scientists do know that certain forms of algae can be toxic to fish. Also, algae robs water of oxygen, and fish need oxygen to survive.

But the news at Wakulla Springs isn’t all doom and gloom. Manatees have arrived in increasing numbers as if answering a silent distress call. They numbered around 60 last winter, putting such a dent in invasive hydrilla populations that herbicide spraying was skipped for the first time in years. And even though an estimated 460 tons of nitrates annually flowed through Wakulla Springs for the past few years, nitrogen levels are slowly dropping as Tallahassee implements a \$227 million renovation of their sewage treatment plant. Effluent from the plan is discharged at a massive sprayfield along Tram Road, and dye studies proved a direct underground connection to Wakulla Springs.

I learned more about the nitrate reductions on a recent four-hour overland tour led by springs expert Jim Stevenson. Tallahassee’s sewage plant was one of several stops on a tour that included several area lakes, sinkholes, springs and swallets (sinks that swallow streams)—following the path of surface and groundwater to Wakulla Springs.

“It took some public pressure, but we’re very proud of the city for stepping up,” said Stevenson of the sewage plant improvements. “We’re seeing the nitrates drop at Wakulla Springs and we attribute that to what they’ve done.”

Stevenson also credits the city and county for efforts in reducing pollution from stormwater runoff, but more steps are necessary. Stevenson was successful in convincing TCC to stop fertilizing their grassy expanses except for ball fields, and the Department of Transportation also stopped fertilizing 218 miles of roadsides in the Wakulla Springs basin. “Sometimes you just have to ask,” he said. “A little education can go a long ways.”

Educating the public is what the overland tours are about. They usually occur on the third Saturday of the month fall through spring. The next one is on Nov. 16. To sign up, call 926-3376 or log onto www.palmettoexpeditions.com. Most of the \$18 per person fee is donated to the Wakulla Springs Alliance and Friends of Wakulla Springs.

Campus Notes

TCC makes 'military-friendly' list

TCC holds health-care job fair

TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT

TCC makes 'military-friendly' list

TCC has been designated as a military-friendly school by Victory Media. Victory Media's 2014 Military Friendly Schools list recognizes the top 20 percent of colleges, universities and trade schools doing the most to recruit and retain military students and their families. To better assist veterans, in 2011 TCC Veteran Affairs established the College's Veterans Success Center, a one-stop facility tailored to assist students with access, enrollment and resource needs. It serves the hundreds of veterans at TCC and seeks to improve retention and graduation rates among student veterans through increased resource awareness and engagement.

TCC holds health-care job fair

TCC is hosting a health care job fair from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Wednesday at its Ghazvini Center for Healthcare Education. The job fair will connect TCC's health-care students with local employers — giving students an opportunity to learn about and apply to potential openings and letting health-care organizations recruit some of TCC's most ambitious students. TCC holds general job fairs every spring and fall semester, but this is only the second time the college has hosted an event specifically focused on health-care careers. The TCC Career Center created the health care-centered event because of the importance of health care-providers in the Big Bend workforce. TCC's Ghazvini Center for Healthcare Education is located at 1528 Surgeons Drive. For more information on the event, visit www.tccfuturelink.com/events or contact the Career Center at 201-9970.

QMT first to present - Shrek the Musical

By Karen Mesterton-Gibbons

TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT

Fiona, a pretty, precocious princess seeks a picture-perfect prince.

Enter Shrek. Exit Perfect.

What magic can she find to transform him into her dreamboat? Potions? Pixie Dust? Photoshop? Come see how The Quincy Music Theatre transforms Shrek the Movie into Shrek the Musical beginning Friday, September 27 and running for two weekends. QMT is the first regional community theatre to get the rights to produce this hilarious musical.

If you love the movie, your entire family will love this madcap adventure featuring a live orchestra, a stellar cast of 47, and a 23-foot-long dragon. All of your favorite characters are brought to life by popular stars of the Quincy Music Theatre, Theatre Tallahassee, TCC, FSU, FAMU, Leon High and the Young Actor's Theatre, including Jacob Godwin as Shrek; Sonia Roman as Fiona; Mario Roberts, Jr., as Donkey; Robert Stuart as Lord Farquaad; Dametria Selmore/Leslie Gonzalez as Dragon; Aron Wesolowski as Pinocchio; Nia Jamison-Sissle as Sugar Plum Fairy; and Ella Leaman as young Fiona, among others.

Just as in the 2001 computer-animated comedy from DreamWorks Pictures which earned \$484.4 million in the world-wide box office, the musical play version parodies other fairy tale films like those of Disney's. Shrek, a grouchy green ogre, finds his solitude ruined when dozens of fairy-tale characters are exiled to his swamp by the evil Lord Farquaad. Gathering his friend Donkey, Shrek heads out to convince Farquaad to take them back. Meanwhile, Farquaad has won the right to marry Princess Fiona, but she is locked in a tower. Shrek wins the right to rescue Fiona and, during their journey, Shrek and Fiona fall in love. Will Shrek stop her wedding to Farquaad? Who will transform whom? Come to the show and see!

Despite a little potty humor, Director Naomi Rose-Mock assures parents that the show is suitable for children. "It's adorable and the entire family will really enjoy it."

For tickets, please visit www.qmt.org or call 875-9444 between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. The show runs two weekends, Sept. 27-29 and Oct. 4-6. Evening performances are at 7:30 p.m., and Sunday matinees and a second-Saturday matinee on Oct. 5 are at 2:30 p.m. Tickets are \$18 for adults and \$15 for seniors/students/military, and are also available at the door. The Quincy Music Theatre is located at the Leaf Theatre building in downtown Quincy.

It's not too late to purchase QMT season tickets! Tickets for all four main-season shows – Shrek, Oliver!, A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum and Guys and Dolls – are only \$50 for adults and \$45 for students/seniors/military. For only \$12.50/\$11.25 per show, you can see great live theatre with full orchestras for less than the price of a movie! Order today! The Quincy Music Theatre -- just minutes away to see a great play!



★ ★ ★

WHO SERVING THOSE SERVED FOR US.

*Please join us for a tour of
the new TCC Veterans Center.*

COMPUTER TECHNOLOGY BUILDING | ROOM 206
MONDAY, OCTOBER 21 AT 1 P.M.

ObamaCare Employer Mandate: A List Of Cuts To Work Hours, Jobs

One of 2013's most-contentious topics among both economists and politicians has been ObamaCare's jobs impact. Critics say the Affordable Care Act, with its employer mandate to provide health insurance, gives business an incentive to cut workers' hours. This year, report after report has rolled in about employers restricting work hours to fewer than 30 per week — the point at which the mandate kicks in. Industry data also point to a shrinking workweek in low-wage industries.

In the interest of an informed debate, we've compiled a list of job actions for which there is strong proof (generally news accounts or official documents) that ObamaCare's employer mandate is behind cuts to work hours or staffing levels. As of Sept. 3, our ObamaCare scorecard included 258 employers. We will continue to update the list, which we encourage you to share and download into a spreadsheet to sort and analyze.

If you know of an employer that should be on the list and can provide supporting evidence, please contact IBD at jed.graham@investors.com.

Florida

Tallahassee Community College

Public

Cut hours of some part-time workers to as low as 24 per week

Jun-13

Encouraging signs of progress for nonprofits

By Alyce Lee Stansbury

TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT

It's been a busy and productive month in the local nonprofit sector.

In the past four weeks, our community has hosted author and TED speaker Dan Pallotta. The Community Foundation of North Florida announced a new round of matching grants to encourage donors to give and organizations to establish a profile in FindLearnGive, the foundation's database of nonprofits. This latest campaign includes extra incentives for gifts to endowment funds, a primary focus of the foundation.

The United Way of the Big Bend hosted its annual campaign kickoff and challenged our community to "stand tall" to raise \$4.75 million for vital health and human services.

Thanks to the folks at Thomas University, the Southern Center for Nonprofit Excellence provided a full day of training and networking for nonprofit organizations from Tallahassee and throughout South Georgia. I met nonprofit leaders from Tifton, Valdosta, Americus, Nashville (Georgia, not Tennessee), Thomasville and Albany.

On Sept. 17, Tallahassee Community College held a meeting to begin the discussion about establishing a nonprofit resource center. Under the leadership of President Jim Murdaugh and the direction of Kimberly Moore, vice president for workforce development, the college has committed to help make the center a reality.

There are still lots of issues to be addressed, including what services the center will provide, how it will be structured and funded and its role in supporting services and resources already in place.

The good news is real progress is being made.

On Wednesday, Jim Murdaugh became chair of the Economic Development Council and has already announced plans to add a nonprofit representative to the EDC board. This comes on the heels of the Greater Tallahassee Chamber of Commerce adding a similar position currently held by Heather Mitchell of United Way.

I don't want to jinx it, but it feels like there's some buzz, new energy and a renewed focus on all things nonprofit that will lead to something tangible for the community as a whole.

Over the past few weeks, I've been pleased to hear about and be part of numerous conversations and meetings where nonprofit and volunteer board leaders are thinking and talking in new and creative ways about how to support their organizations, educate their donors and, as a result, do more for the people they serve.

Here's the challenge: We need to extend this conversation beyond the nonprofit boardroom and expand it to business and government leaders, foundations, corporate sponsors, the donating public and the community at large. Everybody, everywhere!

I'm encouraged by these conversations and hope we will continue to educate ourselves about what nonprofits really need — more innovation, less scrutiny — and what it takes to ensure we have a sustainable nonprofit sector and a thriving community where needs are met and no one is left behind.

Let's keep the conversation going. You are invited to post your comments on the Pallotta event at www.tothevillagesquare.org/category/pallotta.

Alyce Lee Stansbury, CFRE, president of Stansbury Consulting, is excited and encouraged by all this positive momentum. Kelly Otte, executive director of PACE Center for Girls agrees wholeheartedly! Send them comments and questions at notesonnonprofits@gmail.org.

Campus notes: Scholarships and Dirac donation

TCC receives health literacy grant

TCC partners with Workday

TCC hosting public forums

TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT

TCC receives health literacy grant

TCC has received a \$5,000 grant from Florida Blue and the Florida Literacy Coalition. The grant will enable TCC to integrate health and nutrition into the English as a Second or Other Language (ESOL) courses it offers to adults in Gadsden and Leon counties. The goal is to help these students and their families gain the information and skills they need to navigate the healthcare system and make informed health choices. Limited English language and literacy skills can have a significant impact on one's health. The 2003 National Assessment of Adult Literacy report found that health literacy is especially low among adults who did not complete high school and among Hispanic adults, who have lower health literacy than any other ethnic/racial group.

TCC partners with Workday

TCC has become a design partner with Workday, Inc., a leader in cloud-based enterprise software, which is building Workday Student, the first student service application developed for higher education since the 1990s. Other university design partners include Yale University, Broward College and Southern New Hampshire University. TCC trustees have approved the purchase of the Workday ERP Suite—including financial management and human capital management systems—and the partnership on the Workday Student System, a significant step by the college to incorporate more innovative technology into its infrastructure. Workday Student is expected to feature a system of record with a big data analytic foundation and a mobile-first system of engagement.

TCC hosting public forums

In the month of October, Tallahassee Community College is presenting its five-year strategic plan with community events in Leon, Gadsden and Wakulla counties.

These open forum events are an opportunity for members of the local community to participate in a conversation on TCC's future, community needs, and the possibility of adding a 4-year degree at the college.

The event dates and locations are as follows:

Wakulla County, 5:30 p.m. Tuesday, TCC Wakulla Center;
Leon County, 5:30 p.m. Oct. 21, TCC Student Union Ballroom;
Gadsden County, 5:30 p.m. Oct. 30, Florida Public Safety Institute Conference Center.

TCC student selected for Florida College System honor

TCC NEWS

TCC student selected for Florida College System honor

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. (October 2, 2013) –Tallahassee Community College student Cephass Kaburu has been selected as one of the Chancellor’s Students of the Month for the Florida College System. Kaburu

is an international student who came to Tallahassee from Meru, Kenya. During his first semester, it became unclear whether he would be able to afford to remain at TCC. However, thanks to the TCC Foundation and other supporters, Kaburu received scholarships that enabled him to stay in school and maintain a 3.9 GPA. He hopes to attend Florida State University to earn a degree in information technology.

In addition to his school responsibilities, Kaburu speaks to community organizations to help the TCC Foundation increase support for the Global Horizons scholarship for international students with extraordinary need. “Many of us have communities and families who have supported us to get here and are looking up to us. So if you help one international student, you are really helping a whole community,” he said.

To read more about Cephass Kaburu, visit <http://www.fldoe.org/fcs/newsletters/> to view the September 2013 issue of the Florida College System newsletter

10 Florida community colleges that may interest you

By Aimee Hosler
SCHOOLS.COM

Florida is home to a hearty crop of nearly 30 community colleges, including Miami Dade College, which the Aspen Institute reports is the largest public institution in the nation. The state's contributions to the field of education as a whole may be notable. For instance, in 2012, Florida Gov. Rick Scott challenged his state to combat rising college tuition costs – and unprecedented levels of student debt – by developing accelerated \$10,000 bachelor's degree programs at the community college level. Florida's experiment in college affordability may or may not succeed, but its community colleges' willingness to try underscores desire for student success. Not all of Florida's community colleges offer bachelor's degrees, but each can be a gateway to professional and personal enrichment. Here's a look at 10 of those schools.

Broward College (Ft. Lauderdale): According to the Aspen Institute, Broward College is acknowledged for its efforts to make college more affordable for disadvantaged students through intense outreach, financial aid and scholarships, and professional development programs. This is precisely why, in 2013, the Institute ranked BC among the top 10 community colleges in the nation in 2013. AI also notes that BC faculty and administration make student success a priority, which may contribute to the school's steady gains in graduation, transfer and retention rates. BC offers professional certificates and diplomas, associate degrees and, currently, a limited number of bachelor's degrees.

Florida Gateway College (Lake City): Florida Gateway College has a reputation for both its scenic eye candy and its academic rigor. In 2010, Washington Monthly ranked FGC – then called Lake City Community College – among America's 50 best community colleges based on a number of factors, including graduation rate, academic challenge and support for learning. According to the school's official website, Florida Leader Magazine also named FGC the most beautiful college campus in the entire state thanks to its 100 acres of natural scenic woodlands. In addition to associate degrees and professional certificates, FGC offers a Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) degree.

Florida Keys Community College (Key West): Florida Keys Community College's motto is, "Island Living, Island Learning," and it works to deliver. Nestled within the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary, FKCC teaches barrier reef maintenance through its coral restoration projects, helping students learn how to maintain one of the only living barrier reefs in the Northern Hemisphere. This location certainly creates a distinctive campus environment, but it generates unique learning opportunities, too. For example, FKCC students can study marine engineering and marine environmental technology, attend diving school and earn certificates in areas like marine propulsion.

Hillsborough Community College (Tampa): With five campuses throughout the Tampa Bay region, Hillsborough serves thousands of Floridians each year. Part of the reason students may be motivated to attend HCC could be because it feels more like a traditional four-year university, at least in terms of student life: HCC hosts an impressive number of student clubs and organizations and an active sports program. Professional wrestling fans might also be interested to know that Hulk Hogan attended HCC, though his classmates probably knew him as Terry Bollea.

Miami Dade College (Miami): Miami Dade College is not just the largest community college in the nation; with its eight campuses, it is the largest public school in the U.S., period, its website notes. MDC was a finalist with distinction for the Aspen Institute's 2011 Aspen Prize for Community College Excellence. According to AI, MDC alums tend to enjoy lower-than-average unemployment rates, regionally speaking, and include major CEOs, members of Congress, and most of the region's public safety officers. Part of the school's secret, notes AI, is a class called Student Life Skills (SLS), which has led to a doubling of graduation rates among the school's "neediest students."

North Florida Community College (Madison): North Florida Community College's motto may well be "Small college, big possibilities," and a review of its accomplishments suggests it fits. In 2010, Washington Monthly ranked North Florida Community College among the top 50 community colleges in the nation, giving it marks for student-faculty interaction,

10 Florida community colleges that may interest you....

continued

reports that in 2013, NFCC had the second highest graduation and transfer rate among all Florida community colleges that reported that data. Though NFCC deems itself small, it has expanded its footprint significantly through online classes and academic partnerships with four-year institutions, like Saint Leo University. NFCC students can pursue certificates and associate degrees in a variety of subjects, or a limited number of bachelor's degrees through academic partnerships with four-year institutions like Saint Leo University.

Palm Beach State College (Lake Worth): Palm Beach State holds the distinction of being Florida's first public junior college, and – serving nearly 50,000 students in 2012 – remains one of the largest, notes its website. According to Community College Week, it is also the 10th largest producer of associate degrees in the country. Perhaps what may make PBSC especially unique is its emphasis on campus life: In addition to hosting a plethora of clubs and organizations, students may also be able to take part in on-campus cosmetology and massage therapy services. The school offers associate degree and certificate programs, plus a small number of bachelor's degree programs.

Santa Fe College (Gainesville): Santa Fe College may not be Florida's largest or oldest community college, but its notable graduation and transfer rates have won it national acclaim. In 2013, the Aspen Institute ranked SFC among the top 10 community colleges in the nation because of its higher-than-average student success rates. The school's innovative online program called My Academic Plan may deserve at least some of the credit. According to AI, this unique course management system automatically configures class schedules to reflect each student's academic goals and progress, and even warns students when they select courses that fall outside of their graduation or transfer requirements. This makes class selection more intuitive, and may help students complete their education faster. SFC is also known for its intensely student-centered approach to everything, including college administration: Students must sign off on all major policy changes and can even vote on hiring committees.

Tallahassee Community College (Tallahassee): Tallahassee Community College serves nearly 10,000 students each year, and if its College Measures profile is any indication, it may be succeeding. According to College Measures, TCC's graduation and transfer rate is the highest of all Florida community colleges that reported data, and in 2012, Community College Week ranked it 17th nationally among two-year schools for number of associate degrees awarded. In addition to pursuing certificates and associate degrees, students at TCC can take advantage of on-campus partnerships with four-year institutions, including Barry University, Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University and Flagler College.

Valencia College (Orlando): Valencia College is a large, diverse and multi-campus institution with four different sites. It is also won the Aspen Institute's 2011 Aspen Prize for Community College Excellence. According to the Institute, Valencia's "exceptional student outcomes" are partly to credit for the honor: The school's unique one-on-one adviser program contributed to a 44 percent growth in overall student completion in career programs over the course of just four years. College Measures reports that VC now consistently boasts the highest first-year retention rate of all community colleges that reported data in Florida. Like many other schools on this list, VC offers a handful of bachelor's degrees alongside its associate degrees, certificates and professional development programs.



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In-state tuition and fees under \$100 per credit hour

Financial aid and scholarships available



Jim Murdaugh, President of TCC, blows out a birthday candle on his cupcake that was a gift from Laura Rogers on Wednesday. The Best and Brightest Kickoff breakfast took place at the Envision Credit Union on N. Monroe Street. PHOTOS BY MIKE EWING/DEMOCRAT

Best & Brightest kicks off

By Karl Etters
Democrat staff writer

Honoring the achievements of the area's top students is underway as the ninth annual Best and Brightest Awards kicked off Wednesday morning.

Educators and community partners gathered over breakfast, noting the success of offering scholarships and recognition and providing economic and life skills.

Last year, 152 applicants were nominated from public and private schools in the area and Envision Credit Union, the major financial partner, contributed more than \$150,000 in support into the local school system, 90 percent of that in Leon County, and \$4,000 in scholarships.

"This is probably one of the most important programs in our school system," said Leon County Superintendent of Schools Jackie Pons. "For one reason it brings our private schools and public schools together in our community, so I think that's what's very very special about this."

Culminating in an awards ceremony at Ruby Diamond Concert Hall on May 14, students are recognized in 15 different categories, not all based on academic achievement.

"We never ask what their GPA is," said Laura Rogers, the event coordinator for Best and Brightest. "If they excel in a certain area, then that's what



VIDEO
For more on this story see
Tallahassee.com/BestBrightest

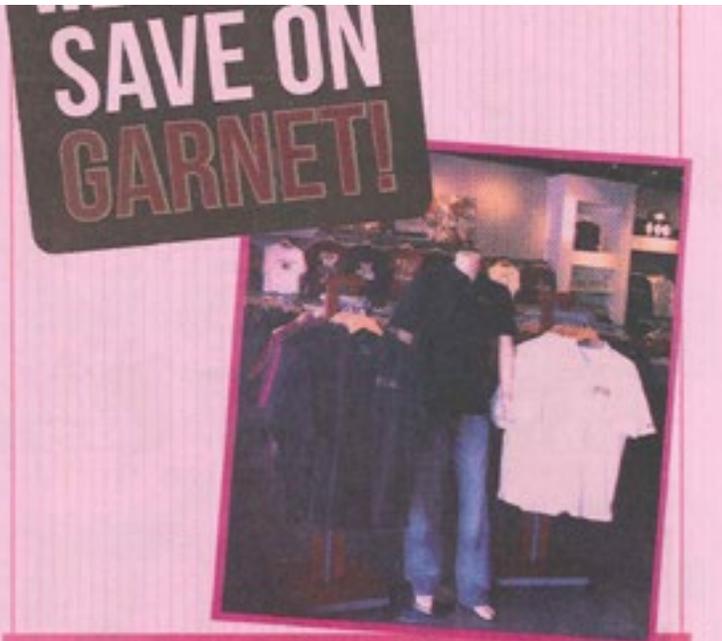
School Superintendent Jackie Pons talks with Darryl Worrell of the Envision Credit Union on Wednesday at the Best and Brightest Kickoff breakfast.

they've been nominated for."

Students nominated by their teachers will have the chance to gain professional advice from media specialist Ron Sachs on interviewing and development of business and self marketing.

Tallahassee Community College President Jim Murdaugh said the major reason to support the program was the quality students who were sure to come out of it and provide something back to the local community.

"It's the talent that's going to make the difference in this community," Murdaugh said. "What we're doing in this program is providing pathways for the talent coming out of our wonderful K-12 system to stay in this community and keep that talent here."



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Education department schedules Common Core hearings

MIAMI HERALD

The state Department of Education has scheduled three public meetings on the controversial Common Core State Standards.

"Florida's families deserve rigorous, clear standards that will prepare our students for success in college and career," state Education Commissioner Pam Stewart wrote in a statement. "We look forward to the public's input, especially from teachers, students and their parents who are currently using these standards in their classrooms, to ensure that they meet our state's high expectations."

The schedule is below.

TAMPA

Tues., Oct. 15 at 5 p.m.

Hillsborough Community College -- Dale Mabry Campus
Student Services Building -- Auditorium -- Room 111
4001 West Tampa Bay Blvd., Tampa

DAVIE

Wed., Oct. 16 at 5 p.m.

Broward College -- Davie Campus
Bailey Concert Hall -- Building 4
3501 SW Davie Rd., Davie

TALLAHASSEE

Thurs., Oct. 17 at 5 p.m.

**Tallahassee Community College
Ghazvini Center for Healthcare Education
Auditorium
1528 Surgeons Dr., Tallahassee**

2013 LeRoy Collins Distinguished Alumni Awards Announced

AFC NEWS YOU CAN USE

Scholarships and Winners

2013 LeRoy Collins Distinguished Alumni Awards
Announced

Please join us in congratulating the winners of the 2013



LeRoy Collins Distinguished
Alumni Awards

**Against the Odds: Carolyn
Alfreda King – Tallahassee
Community College**

Chiles grad volunteers with children in Nepal

Caroline Manuel will spend 140 days helping orphaned children there

By Arek Sarkissian II

TALLAHASSEE DEMOCR

Caroline Manuel said after graduating from Chiles High School, she wanted to grow up in Nepal.

The 18-year-old Manuel has never traveled the world or taken a trip on an airplane, but said she held no fear or reservations about making the trip. On Oct. 14, she will set off for Kathmandu for 140 days of volunteering at an orphanage somewhere in the mountainous Asian country.

"I don't know what to expect, but I know I will be working with kids," she said. "There's something about being able to have that impression on young minds."

Manuel said she first got involved with volunteering her junior year of high school at the LeMoyne Center for Visual Arts. She was already a lover of art, who loved to create on her own and also found it a wonderful opportunity to help young minds grow.

"I love that they have no inhibitions," Manuel said. "Their imagination is wide open."

Manuel eventually picked up a job at LeMoyne and started saving up cash for her trip, which is being facilitated by International Volunteer Headquarters, an organization that has placed 27,350 volunteers around the world since it was formed in 2007. She also took to the Internet and social media channels to find 11 people willing to donate a total of \$933. Some of those donors were friends.

"And some were complete strangers," Manuel said.

Manuel said her parents covered the airfare and the money she raised went toward a visa, passport and other fees.

Manuel hopes to find more people willing to donate so she can buy art supplies that will help her connect with children in the orphanage.

Manuel's skills as an artist also served her well at Chiles where she was awarded a 2013 Best and Brightest Award, which netted her \$750 in spending money and \$750 to be used toward Tallahassee Community College.

Manuel said after her overseas trip, she planned to attend TCC and then transfer to Florida State University to complete an arts degree.

"I'm hoping these next few months will help me figure out a lot of what I want to do," she said. "I should have a good idea of what road I want to take."

Campus Notes

TCC's Kaburu honored Freda King receives award

TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT

TCC's Kaburu honored

TCC student Cephas Kaburu, the subject of a front-page story in the Tallahassee Democrat this summer, has been selected as one of the Chancellor's Students of the Month for the Florida College

System. Kaburu is an international student who came to Tallahassee from Meru, Kenya. During his first semester, it became unclear whether he would be able to afford to remain at TCC. However, thanks to the TCC Foundation and other supporters, Kaburu received scholarships that enabled him to stay in school and maintain a 3.9 GPA. He hopes to attend FSU to earn a degree in information technology.

In addition to his school responsibilities, Kaburu speaks to community organizations to help the TCC Foundation increase support for the Global Horizons scholarship for international students.

Freda King receives award

TCC alumna Freda King has won a LeRoy Collins Distinguished Alumni Award from the Association of Florida Colleges. TCC nominated King for the statewide honor in the Against the Odds category. The award will be presented next month at a gala dinner in Orlando. King was struggling with addiction and poverty when she began to turn her life around at age 36. The high school dropout earned her GED and associate's degree at TCC and later graduated from FSU. She is now a certified addiction specialist and works for Disc Village in an educational and social service program for inmates of the Leon County Jail. She also coordinates the Dress for Success Going Places program, which helps women develop practical job skills.

Fitch Affirms Leon County-Tallahassee, FL Blueprint 2000 Sales Tax Revs at 'AA'; Outlook Stable

Business Wire

YAHOO.COM

Fitch Ratings has affirmed the 'AA' rating on the following Leon County - City of Tallahassee Blueprint 2000 Intergovernmental Agency, Florida's (the agency) bonds:

--\$74.1 million sales tax revenue refunding bonds, series 2007 and 2011.

The Rating Outlook is Stable.

STABLE REGIONAL ECONOMY

Leon County (implied GO bonds rated 'AA+', Outlook Stable by Fitch) is located in the northwest Florida Panhandle. The county is home to the capital complex in Tallahassee (implied GO rated 'AA', Outlook Stable) and three institutions of higher education: Florida State University, Florida Agricultural & Mechanical University, and **Tallahassee Community College**. A significant public sector presence lent a degree of stability to the regional economy through the recent economic downturn. The outlook for the regional economy is modestly positive.

The local housing market did not exhibit the same level of stress with which many Florida communities have been inundated, experiencing minor tax base loss and foreclosure rates only slightly above the national average. The county unemployment rate of 6.6% in July 2013 continues to trend below that of the nation and the state. Wealth levels are slightly below-average reflecting the dominance of government employment and a large student population.

Additional information is available at 'www.fitchratings.com'.

In addition to the sources of information identified in Fitch's Tax-Supported Rating Criteria, this action was additionally informed by information from Creditscope, University Financial Associates, CoreLogic/Case-Shiller Home Price Index and IHS Global Insight.

Applicable Criteria and Related Research:

--'Tax-Supported Rating Criteria' (Aug. 14, 2012);

--'U.S. Local Government Tax-Supported Rating Criteria' (Aug. 14, 2012).

Applicable Criteria and Related Research:

Tax-Supported Rating Criteria

http://www.fitchratings.com/creditdesk/reports/report_frame.cfm?rpt_id=686015

U.S. Local Government Tax-Supported Rating Criteria

http://www.fitchratings.com/creditdesk/reports/report_frame.cfm?rpt_id=685314

Additional Disclosure

Solicitation Status

http://www.fitchratings.com/gws/en/disclosure/solicitation?pr_id=804260

TCC Faculty, Staff Fundraise For Scholarships

By Lanetra Bennett
WCTV.TV

Tallahassee, FL - Faculty and staff at Tallahassee Community College are leading by example. They're donating their money and time to support student scholarships.

Jingo Huang is from Taiwan, and considers herself very lucky to be a student at Tallahassee Community College.

She says it was an academic and a housing scholarship that made it possible. She says, "It actually helped me a lot because you come here from really far away. At first, it's overwhelming, you don't know what to do or where to live."

The TCC Foundation is the fundraising arm of the college. It's now in its final week of a four-week campaign that gives faculty and staff the opportunity to raise money for scholarships.

Over the last two years, the campaign has raised more than \$100,000 from employee donations.

Ranie Thompson with the TCC Foundation says, "I think that TCC is a little unique that we have so many who enjoy getting involved in these activities at the college."

New this year, various departments are sponsoring fundraising events, like Tuesday's book sale organized by TCC Library Services; and an art auction by organized by Disability Support Services.

The coordinator of Disabilities Support Services, Stephanie Crosby, says the art pieces were done by students with disabilities and some of their mentors from TCC as well as FSU.

Crosby says, "It's wonderful. Watching how hard they work and how proud they are of what they're doing is absolutely fantastic; and I couldn't be happier about this."

Administrators say scholarships are vital, especially for international students like Jingo, whose out-of-state tuition fees are almost four times higher.

Jingo says, "I really appreciate what TCC has done for me. If I didn't have the scholarship, I really don't know how I'm going to pay for the living fee."

The schedule of fundraising events are listed below in the press release from TCC.

TCC Faculty, Staff Fundraise For Scholarships

By Lanetra Bennett
WCTV.TV

Press Release: Tallahassee Community College

TCC plans week of events to support scholarships and initiatives

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. (October 3, 2013) – Tallahassee Community College believes in leadership through demonstration. That's why, every year, the TCC Foundation begins its fundraising efforts with the employee-focused Campaign for TCC—an opportunity for TCC faculty and staff to support scholarships and initiatives at the College through donations. This year, the Campaign for TCC is trying something new, a grand finale of special fundraising events, October 7 – 11, giving the College's various departments a chance to support causes related to their particular areas.

"Over the last two years, the Campaign for TCC has raised more than \$100,000 through employee donations," said Ranie Thompson, development officer for the TCC Foundation. "But our emphasis isn't on reaching a monetary goal—it's on encouraging wide-spread participation among faculty and staff. The week's line-up of employee-organized events is a fun way for more people to get involved and a chance for the TCC community to really take ownership of the campaign."

Schedule of events

Book Sale
TCC Library, 1st floor
Tuesday, October 8, noon – 6 p.m.
Organized by: Library Services
Benefiting: TCC Library's Cultural Corner

Art Opening and Auction
TCC Fine and Performing Arts Center
October 8, 6:30 p.m.
Organized by: Disability Support Services
Benefiting: Eagle Connections

Share Day at Red Elephant
Red Elephant's Midtown and Kerry Forest location
Wednesday, October 9, 11 a.m. – 9 p.m.
Organized by: TCC Athletics
Benefiting: Pathways to Success Scholarships

BBQ Competition
Wednesday, October 9, 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.
Organized by: TCC Student Veteran Association
Benefiting: TCC Student Veteran Association

Bake Sale, Golf Ball Drop, & Raffle
Outside of TCC's Science and Math Building
Friday, October 11, 8 a.m. – 1 p.m.
Organized by: Division of Science and Mathematics
Benefiting: STEM Center

Kickball Tournament
TCC Intramural Fields
Friday, October 11, 3 p.m.
Organized by: International Student Organization
Benefiting: International Student Scholarships

Singing Bake Sale
Behind the Student Union
Thursday, October 10, 11 a.m. – 4 p.m.
Organized by: Theatre TCC!
Benefiting: Curtain Call (Student Theatre Organization)

In addition to the fundraising events, the TCC Foundation is also hosting a daily social media competition. The Foundation will award \$2,000 to the scholarship/program that wins each challenge. The challenges lasts for one day from 6 a.m. to midnight.

Monday – New likes on a Facebook post
Tuesday – New comments received on a Facebook post
Wednesday – Most times Facebook posts are shared
Thursday – Most photo activity on Facebook (photos posted, likes received, everything counts)
Friday – Most Facebook profile "Likes" received

For more information on how the TCC Foundation supports the College, visit www.tcc.fl.edu/foundation.

King Turns Tragedy Into Triumph and Touches Lives Through her Testimony

By LA'CHANA WILLIAMS

CAPITAL OUTLOOK

A child who has only experienced poverty, adversity and triumph could choose to become just another statistic and remain a victim to it. But to Freda King, her struggle with addiction and being a witness to domestic violence only forced her to beat the odds.

"Getting into drugs was very easy for me — (it was) a way to escape," said King. "My journey began very early... filled with adversity."

King, who is from St. Petersburg, Fla., said she grew up during a difficult time. "We didn't have a lot of money," she added.

As a child, King stared poverty right in its face. But she didn't give it too much thought until she began to realize the things that she didn't have. To cope with what was missing and living in a household surrounded with domestic violence, King was introduced to a world of drugs. She started smoking marijuana at 13 years old and that opened the door for using other drugs.

"Using marijuana progressed into (using) cocaine and pills ... and that was a part of my 20s and my 30s," she said. After struggling with drugs for more than 20 years, King said she wanted to choose a different path.

"I saw death around me and I wanted to live," she said.

Using drugs destroyed King's family. King's husband filed for divorce and she wasn't able to see her kids. King said through prayer, something she hadn't done in decades, she asked God to restore her life.

While working at the Hilton hotel back in her hometown, King oversaw a team working for Gov. Jeb Bush. After the teams stay at the hotel, King received an unexpected phone call that would soon begin her life's restoration.

"One of the staff persons (from the governor's team) called and offered me a job in Tallahassee," she said.

King said she was unsure about the move, but when she received another phone call she decided to take the job offer and move to Tallahassee. Being that she was a high school dropout, King decided to obtain her GED at Tallahassee Community College.

From there, King continued her education at Florida State University. With a TCC scholarship, King paid for school while maintaining a 3.5 Grade Point Average.

"I was committed to becoming an educated woman," she said.

Just before her graduation in the summer of 2010, King was faced with tragedy when her son Brandon Michael King was killed in Afghanistan.

"I was at a point (questioning myself). Do I postpone (graduation) or not?" King asked herself. "But Brandon was so proud of me – and to me, completing that journey was just going to complete me."

King now works at Disc Village, an educational and social service program for inmates of the Leon County Jail, as the program coordinator. She also dedicates her time to the Dress for Success Going Places Network program – a program that is geared towards helping women develop employability and life skills after incarceration.

"I see a lot of brokenness, because a lot of these women have experienced trauma, hurt and pain," King said.

She tries to encourage women that they too can be successful despite what they've gone through, she said. Amiee Griffith, an adult services program supervisor and colleague of King's, said she can see how passionate King is about helping people.

"She goes over and beyond for her clients...she cares a lot about their well-being and about them having the best outcomes," Griffith said.

King Turns Tragedy Into Triumph and Touches Lives Through her Testimony....

continued

King continues to travel around Tallahassee and the state to several juvenile justice detention centers to motivate others. She has also spoken at many churches and conferences.

Going to TCC played a vital role in King's success. "If it wasn't for TCC, I wouldn't have been able to pay for my education," she said.

TCC nominated King for the statewide honor in the Against the Odds category. On Nov. 14, at a gala dinner in Orlando, Fla., she will be presented with the Leroy Collins Distinguished Alumni Award from the Association of Florida Colleges. And that isn't her only measure of success.

In March, King said she will celebrate 13 years of sobriety. And through sobriety, King was reunited with her kids and remarried to her husband. And to honor Brandon, King started the Brandon Michael King Scholarship.

Ninth Annual Paula Bailey Dining in the Dark Benefit

Sub-head Lighthouse of the Big Bend Press Release

WCTV.TV

Tallahassee - Tallahassee's premiere, multi-sense dining experience takes place from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. on Sunday, October 13th at the FSU University Center Club.

Benefiting the Lighthouse of the Big Bend, Dining in the Dark is a unique event that both raises needed dollars to serve Big Bend residents who are blind and visually impaired, while at the same time allowing guests to experience a few hours of what those who are blind experience every day.

Although some people may be anxious about dining in complete darkness, guests over the past eight years have given this event rave reviews, especially because information from their other senses becomes more noticeable and they find that they are able to dine very well even without their vision.

During the reception, which begins at 4:30 p.m., guests will be greeted by Honorary Host, Florida Senator Bill Montford, and will receive training on how to comfortably walk, sit, and eat in the dark. As guests are called to be seated, Lighthouse volunteers who are blind, and who are adept at navigating in the dark, will guide them through the darkened ballroom to their tables.

The four-course menu will allow diners to savor the intensified tastes and smells of an elegant meal, which will be served by volunteers from the Leon County Sheriff's Office SWAT Team, who will be wearing night-vision goggles. Provisions have been made for guests preferring a vegetarian meal and for those with any dietary restrictions.

Irresistible baskets will tempt raffle lovers, plus tactile tic-tac-toe will be available as entertainment between menu courses. This year, Tinetta Cooper, whose vision became severely impaired due to diabetic retinopathy, glaucoma, and optic nerve atrophy, will share her inspirational story of how the Lighthouse "guided her through vision loss" and how she now guides others.

The evening will conclude with Honorary Host Senator Bill Montford presenting the Lighthouse 2013 Paula Bailey Inspirational Community Member Award. The Lighthouse would like to thank our generous sponsors, including Doug and Elizabeth Bailey, Franz Braatz, Audrey Copeland Bell, Glen and Sharyn Davidson, Palmer Eye Center, Evelyn Sewell, Southern Vitreoretinal Associates, Sundstrom, Friedman & Fumero, [Tallahassee Community College](#), the Tallahassee Democrat, and the University Center Club.

Nichols encourages all women to get mammograms

Survivor says mammogram, mastectomy saved her

By Sean Rossmann

TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT

Lorraine Nichols' first mammogram in 2007 showed that a small lump in her left breast was breast cancer, which was unexpected since she had no family history of the disease.

Or so she thought.

A year after getting her diagnosis, her mother, then 57, was diagnosed with breast cancer too, but by that time, Nichols had already started radiation therapy and alerted both her sisters to get mammograms.

Her mother is now undergoing hormone therapy and is doing great, Nichols reports.

But unfortunately, the 2007 scare wasn't the end of the road for Nichols, who this year was diagnosed with Stage 1 breast cancer in the same breast.

"He gave me the call and I was at work and it was kind of heartbreaking, I had to get off in a corner and cry my eyeballs out for a little bit," Nichols, now 42, said of when she received the news in January.

She immediately began weighing her options by talking to her doctors and other breast cancer survivors with the Joanna Francis Foundation.

"I had a pretty good idea of what to do and how to go about it," Nichols said. "I decided to do a bilateral (mastectomy) and that's how we went from there."

She says that decision was the most important and most difficult decision of her breast cancer journey.

"I prayed about it — my church family, they were very helpful. My husband, of course, he was with me all the way," she said.

Nichols received a lot of family support from her husband Charles and her three children, all of whom came home for the surgery in March of this year. Charles, specifically, drove his wife around to her appointments for weeks and months before and after her surgery and took her for a cruise the week before she went back to work.

"It means a lot that people really do care and they show that they care," Nichols said.

Now cancer-free, she tells all of her friends, coworkers and her students at Tallahassee Community College, where she teaches in the respiratory department, to get their mammograms.

"It's very important," said Nichols of the need for women to get a regular mammogram. "You don't have to wait to know you have a family history or not."

Update: Shaky Start To \$10,000 College Degree Programs In Florida

By Sammie Mack

STATE IMPACT

Last November, Gov. Rick Scott challenged Florida's colleges to offer \$10,000 degrees for programs that place students in high-demand fields.

Most of the schools in the Florida College System pledged to meet that challenge, but as the Sun Sentinel reported over the weekend, the results so far have been mixed:

"... the degree options are limited, the eligibility requirements are often tough and the marketing efforts have been light.

Broward College opened the program up a month ago, but so far no one has signed up for any of the 80 open slots. ... [Broward College and Palm Beach State] have decided against offering discounts in nursing, one of the most popular high-demand degree fields."

The article goes on to point out that Miami-Dade College has been able to integrate the degree programs into its American Dream initiative:

"The four-year degrees, which are expected to cost less than \$8,000, are actually an extension of the college's American Dream scholarship that gives free tuition and fees for two years to high performing Miami-Dade high school graduates. About 62 MDC freshmen have signed up"

Scott's challenge initially was met with both support and skepticism—proponents viewed it as a worthy experiment and critics called it a gimmicky shell game.

As the Tampa Bay Times pointed out in a profile of St. Petersburg College's \$10,000 degree program, the pledge extends only to tuition:

"The \$10,000 tab does not include the cost of books and materials, which can run over \$1,000 a year. It doesn't include meals and housing, which the University of South Florida estimates at nearly \$9,000 a year."

Two dozen of the qualifying colleges that offer baccalaureate degrees in the Florida College System signed on to the pledge. Only ten were ready to enroll students in \$10,000 degree programs this fall:

College of Central Florida

Edison State College

Gulf Coast State College

Indian River State College

Miami Dade College

Northwest Florida State College

Pensacola State College

Polk State College

Seminole State College

St. Petersburg College

Heading Wetlands brought TCC institute here

THE WAKULLA NEWS

We have a current wetland ordinance that we have all lived with for years, and it has not hindered building, and it has protected our wetlands, so what is the problem now?

Because Wakulla has had a balance with nature and building, we attracted the Tallahassee Community College Wakulla Environmental Institute because Wakulla county is the fifth "hottest" bio-diversity spot in the nation.

Anyone interested in volunteering to gather signatures in their neighborhoods, meet new friends, is welcome to join us on Thursday, Oct. 17th at 7 p.m. for a one hour meeting at the Wakulla County Public Library.

Report: Many Community Colleges Bypass Best Practices for Student Success

By Carly Adams

BLOGS EDUCATION WEEKLY

Student success courses, campus orientation, early academic planning, and clear attendance policies can help students make a smooth transition to community college and increase chances of completion. Yet, a new report shows many schools have not adopted these student-engagement practices or required students to participate.

Survey results released Thursday by the Center for Community College Student Engagement at the University of Texas at Austin outline several promising practices to improve degree completion at the country's public two-year institutions, if only schools would adopt the recommendations.

"The field has known for more than a decade the importance of student engagement. Simply stated, engagement matters—and more engagement matters more," said Kay McClenney, the director of the center in a press release. "These results underscore the importance of community college efforts to make student engagement inescapable. Requiring students to take part in activities likely to enhance their success is a step community colleges can readily take. They just need to decide to do it."

Recognizing that community colleges have to target limited resources in the most effective way, the report lists 13 educational policies and practices that have been identified as having high impact on student engagement in community colleges.

"A Matter of Degrees: Engaging Practices, Engaging Students," describes how students' participation in particular practices affects their level of engagement in college and how widespread the efforts are on campuses.

For example, just 46 percent of students surveyed in the report developed an academic plan during their first term, even though about 66 percent of colleges have a process for helping entering students set academic goals in their first semester. While 97 percent of colleges offer some form of orientation, only 60 percent of students participate.

For students in developmental or remedial programs at community colleges, fast-track programs can help them quickly move through to college-level work and 70 percent of colleges offer such programs. Yet, the report shows that less than 30 percent of developmental students at community colleges participate in accelerated courses.

The report includes examples of institutions, such as the Houston Community College System, Tallahassee Community College in Florida, and Community College of Baltimore County, where these practices have successfully been put in place to notably improve student outcomes.

Heading Crowds flood education officials with comments on Common Core standards

By Travis Pillow

TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT

More than 100 parents, teachers, businesspeople and curriculum experts showed up at a Tallahassee auditorium to address Florida's education standards Thursday evening.

When Florida adopted the Common Core State Standards in 2010, the Department of Education sought comments from the public and received input from teachers and all 12 state universities.

But the level of interest then paled in comparison to the avalanche of more than 7,000 emails and online comments the department has received in the wake of an executive order issued last month by Gov. Rick Scott. Hundreds of people lined up to speak at town halls this week in Tampa and Davie, and more than 60 weighed in Thursday at Tallahassee Community College's Ghazvini Center for Healthcare Education.

"It has made parents and grandparents look more closely at the curriculum," said Dru Faulk of the First Coast Tea Party. She was part of a caravan of parents and activists who drove to Tallahassee from the Jacksonville area to speak out against federal involvement in education policy and question how much it will cost to implement the new standards.

Educators, civic groups and business associations lined up to support the standards. Rebecca Sager of the Tallahassee League of Women Voters urged the state to stick with them and to use a test that would allow comparisons with students in other states.

Greg Blose of the Florida Chamber of Commerce said he talks every day with businesses like Teledyne Oil & Gas, a Daytona Beach company that drew the governor to a news conference announcing its plans to hire 100 more people.

Blose said the firm is still looking to fill nine existing job openings — another sign, he said, that "talent is the new economic-development currency," and the state needs higher academic standards to meet the demands of growing businesses.

Meredith Mears, of Tallahassee, said her daughter was a high-performing student who qualified for gifted programs at W.T. Moore Elementary. Math problems that emphasized the process of solving a problem rather than the final result led to "tears and frustration" with her homework. Mears is now pushing to "slow down" the new standards in Florida.

Rachel Pienta, chairwoman of the Wakulla County Democratic Party, spoke in her capacity as an educator. She said that with controversy mounting, the department should travel county-by-county to explain the standards — which she supports — in open forums.

"You have a battle on your hands for the hearts and minds of parents, and I believe that three town-hall meetings aren't enough," she said.

Last year, Scott's office sent out a news release proclaiming that the new standards would bring about the end of "teaching to the test," and noting that "teachers in Florida have been active in major parts of the development of this new system." Six months ago, he signed a bill incorporating Common Core benchmarks into the state's Next Generation Sunshine State Standards.

Last month, he issued the executive order calling for the town-hall meetings and warned against "federal intrusion" into state and local education policy.

Three of the governor's top advisers were on hand at Thursday's meeting. Education Commissioner Pam Stewart, who presided over all three town halls, said she plans to present the public input to the state Board of Education at its meeting next month in Gainesville to weigh the state's next move.

Shari Gewanter, the vice president of the Leon Classroom Teachers Association, said that whatever course Florida takes, politicians need to settle on a set of standards and allow teachers and students to adjust to them.

"We have to give things enough time to work," she said.

Heading Our Opinion: Moving forward

You can have a voice in shaping TCC's future

Opinion

TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT

By most standards, Tallahassee Community College has done an excellent job as it grew from a small junior college to one of the premier community colleges in the country.

Most people will tell you that is because the leadership at TCC has kept its focus on the community in its name, providing students with an alternative to an immediate foray into four-year college life, while providing a solid education or providing job skills needed to enter the workforce.

That tradition continues under the leadership of president Jim Murdaugh, who in three years has carried the torch and is marching successfully toward establishing new goals for the college.

While the college's Board of Trustees has created a guide for the strategic plan, TCC is holding a series of community meetings to get input from the public. The goal: to help the college fine-tune its mission as it pertains to this community's needs.

If you're interested in TCC as a future student, employer or business or community partner, you should attend a community forum Monday. It will be held from 5:30 to 7 p.m. in the student union ballroom at TCC. A similar forum was held earlier this month in Wakulla County, and one for Gadsden County residents will be held at 5:30 p.m. on Oct. 30 at the Florida Public Safety Institute.

Some discussion Monday is likely to focus on whether TCC should broaden its mission by offering a four-year degree in nursing. Are there other disciplines that should be explored? How would that mesh with what's being offered at Florida State and Florida A&M universities?

Adding some context to this discussion is the fact that, of the 28 schools in the Florida College System, 23 offer four-year programs. That's why it makes sense for the TCC leadership to explore what this trend means for communities and community colleges of the future. In addition, the college already has developed a template for priorities and strategies. It includes:

- Maintaining its commitment to keep college costs affordable, make sure programs ensure a student's success and assist students through the financial aid process.
- Taking an assessment of all academic and nonacademic programs to make sure the college is providing educational opportunities that are needed.
- Making sure the college has in place a sound system for recruiting, retaining and graduating students in a timely fashion.
- Hiring, developing and retaining staff to address the future needs and diversity of the college.
- Extending its reach in the community and the region through valuable partnerships that will result in sound financial support for the college as well as strength in its academic offerings.

TCC is wise in reaching out to the community. It serves a critical role in this community in its academic and certification programs. It is ranked No. 1 among two-year colleges in the country in producing associate of arts degree graduates, and it is the No. 1 transfer college to FSU and FAMU.

But its role also is important in this community's economic development efforts. That will become even more evident as Dr. Murdaugh begins his two-year term as chairman of the Economic Development Council. TCC also is partnering with Florida State and Florida A&M in creating a three-pronged education incentive to prospective companies interested in moving here.

TCC already has established itself as a success story in this community. But, as is the case with other colleges and universities, it must be guided by a plan based on sound financial standing, increasing student enrollment, identifying and retaining a strong faculty and continuing to be a strong community partner.

It's important that your voice be heard in helping it maintain those standards.

LEARN MORE ABOUT TCC ATTEND TCC PREVIEW



Take advantage of admissions information, scholarship and financial aid opportunities and speak to an advisor about your future!

OCTOBER 17 | 5:30 - 6:30 P.M.
TCC Student Union Ballroom

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

SCHOLARSHIP FAIR

OCTOBER 24
5:30 - 7:30 p.m.

TCC Fine and Performing Arts Center



SCHOLARSHIP FAIR

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 24
5:30-7:30 P.M.

FINE AND PERFORMING ARTS CENTER



TCC2K14 SPRING ADVISING TIP-OFF

MAKE REGISTERING FOR SPRING A SLAM DUNK!

OCTOBER 23 and 24
10 a.m. — 6 p.m.

THE NEW ADVISING CENTER
STUDENT UNION



Get coached on classes before
registration starts November 4

Plan for post-graduation careers
and university transfer

Join our starting line-up and meet with TCC Advisors, Financial Aid,
Career Center and University Partners this important #TCC2K14 event.

DON'T SIT THE BENCH, JUMP IN TODAY AND GET ADVISED!

